Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-044
Monday
7 March 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-044 *7 March 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Willing To Implement 'Steps' To Restart Talks *[HA'ARETZ 6 Mar]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Official Voices 'Dismay' Over UN Delay *[Cairo Radio]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH 24 Feb 2
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 1 Mar 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Briefs U.S. Envoy on Latest Developments *[Algiers VOP]* 6
'Arafat Briefs Russian Envoy on PLO Position *[Sanaa VOP]* 6
Contacts Said Under Way for 'Arafat-Peres Meeting *[Sanaa VOP]* 7
PLO Reportedly Rules Out Meeting *[AFP]* 7
PLO Officials Hold Consultations on Negotiations *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Mar]* 7
Sha'th: UN Nearing Agreement on Observers *[London MBC TV]* 7
Sha'th Reiterates Call for UN Force in Territories *[Stockholm Radio]* 8
Negotiators Reject Israeli Demand on Collaborators *[AL-QUDS 2 Mar]* 8
'Abd-Rabbuh on International Observers, Talks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 8
Executive Member al-Najjab on Massacre, Talks *[AL-DUSTUR 6 Mar]* 9
Envoy Delivers 'Arafat Note to Mubarak, Comments *[MENA]* 13
Hamas Warns Settlers To Leave Before 15 Mar *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 13
Hamas Issues Statement on Planned Activities *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 4 Mar]* 13
Hamas Rejects 'Hollow' 'Arafat Coordination Appeal *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Mar]* 15
Hamas Said Against UN Forces for West Bank, Gaza *[Tehran International]* 16
Hamas Denies Report on Halt to Retaliation *[AKHIR KHABAR 6-7 Mar]* 16
Intifadah Leadership's 'Vengeance Call' Reported *[SANA]* 16
Jihad Leader on 'Vengeful' Actions Against Zionists *[IRNA]* 16

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

MENA Previews Upcoming Mubarak, Arafat Talks 18
Official Comments *[MENA]* 18
Musa Meets 'Arafat Upon Arrival *[MENA]* 18
'Arafat, Mubarak Talks Begin *[MENA]* 18
Foriegn Minister Comments *[MENA]* 18
'Arafat Adviser Arrives, Comments *[MENA]* 19
Musa, 'Arafat Hold News Conference *[MENA]* 19
'Arafat Meets French President's Envoy *[MENA]* 20
'Arafat Departs *[MENA]* 20
Mubarak on Politics, Regional Security, Other Issues *[MENA]* 20
Musa Addresses People's Assembly on Hebron Massacre *[Cairo Radio]* 26
Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Hebron Incident *[AL-SHA'B 1 Mar]* 27

Paper Blames U.S., Israel for Hebron Incident *[AL-'ARABI 28 Feb]* 27
Mubarak, Saudi King Discuss Rights of Palestinians *[MENA]* 28
Palestinian Envoy: Settlements To Top Agenda *[Cairo Radio]* 29
Daily Urges 'Radical Solution' to Settlements *[MENA]* 29
Cabinet Report Views 1993 Economic Performance *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 26 Feb-2 Mar]* 29
Somali Factions Agree to 'Concept' of 'Action Program' *[MENA]* 31

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Defendent Retracts Confession in Bush Assassination Plot *[AFP]* 32

Yemen

Salih Addresses Worshipers on Crisis, Developments *[Sanaa Radio]* 32
Salih Accuses 'Southern Rivals' of Conspiracy *[Amman TV]* 33
Al-Bid Reportedly Attacks Salih at Committee Session *[London AL-HAYAH 3 Mar]* 33
Al-Bid Announces Halt to Media Campaign *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 7 Mar]* 34
Opposition Parties Call for Civil Disobedience *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 34
'Popular Resistance' Group Created To Defend Unity *[Damascus Radio]* 34

IRAQ

'Progress' in Oil Negotiations With France Noted *[Baghdad Radio]* 35
Anti-Zionism 'Alliance' With Libya, Sudan Proposed *[AFP]* 35
Paper Views Change in UK, French Position on Embargo *[INA]* 35
Regime's 'Sabotaging' Role in Yemen Described *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 36
Kurds Seeking Mediation Efforts of Jordan's Husayn *[AL-SHURUQ 3 Mar]* 36
U.S. Position on Hebron Draft Resolution Noted *[AL-THAWRAH 28 Feb]* 37
Editorial Blames 'Degraded' Arab Rulers for Hebron *[AL-THAWRAH 27 Feb]* 37
U.S. 'Rabid' Media, Diplomatic Campaign Denounced *[INA]* 38
U.S. Held Responsible for 'Criminal' Embargo *[INA]* 39
Clinton Statements About Country Challenged *[INA]* 39
Paper Chides U.S. Use of Democracy, Human Rights *[INA]* 39

ISRAEL

Rabin: Accord Must Be Implemented, Not Reopened *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Rabin Says Implementation Possible in 6 Weeks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Peres on Peace Process, Meeting 'Arafat *[London MBC TV]* 41
Sources: 'Over 40' Settlements May Be Evacuated *[Jerusalem New Channel TV]* 42
Temple Mount Prayers Held in 'Orderly' Fashion *[Tel Aviv Radio, etc]* 42
Meretz Faction Opposes Tzomet Inclusion in Government 43
Inclusion Rejected at 'Present Time' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 43
Faction Reaffirms Veto *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
Threatens To Leave Coalition *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43

JORDAN

Amman Mosque Preachers Denounce Hebron Massacre *[Amman Radio, etc]* 44
Massacre Reopens 'War' of Palestinian Representation *[SHIHAN 5-11 Mar]* 44
Minister Denies Issuing Passport to Saddam Aide *[SHIHAN 5 Mar]* 45
Paper Reports Iraq Tightening Controls at Border *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Mar]* 45
Official Confirms Departure of Iranian Diplomats *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Mar]* 46
Source: U.S. Navy Continues Ship Interceptions *[AL-RA'Y 6 Mar]* 46

LEBANON

Delegation to Washington Peace Talks Returns *[VOL]* 47
Officials Discuss Developments in Church Bombing 47

Al-Hirawi, U.S. Envoy Meet *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Defense Minister Interviewed *[RFL]* 47
Muslim Figure Accuses Israel *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Fadlallah Comments *[VOL]* 48
French Diplomat Denounces Bombing *[RFL]* 48
Former Militia Head Sentenced for Collaboration *[AFP]* 48
PSP Names Command Council, Deputy Leaders *[VOM]* 48

SYRIA

UN Urged To Take Action on Massacre, Settlements 49
Press Urges 'Firm' Resolution *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Radio Calls for 'Positive' Stand *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Paper Denies 'Claims' Syrian Jews 'in Danger' *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Paper Urges International Observers in Territories *[Damascus Radio]* 51

SOUTH ASIA

Iran

Deputies' Resolution Offers Solution to Zionism 'Problem' *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Further on Resolution *[AFP]* 52
Paper Says Country 'Could Improve' Ties With U.S. *[AFP]* 52
Velayati Welcomes Chinese Foreign Minister *[IRNA]* 53
Velayati, PRC Official Interviewed *[Tehran TV]* 53
Visit of PRC Official Previewed *[Tehran International]* 54
Rafsanjani, PRC Minister Meet *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Habibi, Velayati, Qian Qichen Meet *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Nateq-Nuri, Qian Qichen View Issues *[IRNA]* 55
Rowhani, PRC's Qian Criticize UN *[IRNA]* 56
Qian Qichen Comments on Visit, Departs *[IRNA]* 56
Khamene'i Sermon Discusses Massacre, Struggle *[Tehran International]* 5o
Zionist Role Exmained *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Paper Urges Muslims To Avenge Hebron Incident *[KAYHAN AL-'ARABI 27 Feb]* 59
Column Condemns 'Arafat's Response to Hebron Events *[KAYHAN AL-'ARABI 27 Feb]* 60

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Willing To Implement 'Steps' To Restart Talks

TA0603091594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Mar 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday said Israel and the PLO are holding contacts in an attempt to organize a meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo on 7 March. According to the sources, Peres will try to convince 'Arafat to immediately resume the peace talks.

Last Friday Peres conveyed a message to 'Arafat via Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias. Foreign Minister Peres urged the PLO chairman to immediately resume the negotiations and offered him a "package of steps" Israel is willing to implement. Among these steps are accelerating the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in an attempt to complete it by 13 April, granting the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho immediate authority and increasing the size of this police force, and deploying international observers in Gaza and Jericho.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 6 March broadcasts a report by political correspondent Udi Segal on the proposed Israeli steps, adding that "Foreign Minister Peres says that in addition to the above proposals, Israel will agree to discuss additional demands and has some more proposals of its own. He emphasized, however, that Israel will not agree to illogical demands such as the dismantling of settlements and disarming all the settlers." In recorded remarks, Peres says: "We distinguish between useful and senseless demands. We will examine every demand and will not oppose anything which can help calm tempers and facilitate the peace process." Asked to elaborate, Peres adds: "We will not oppose strengthening the Palestinian police force. Also, when there is a curfew in an Arab village we will object to armed settlers entering it and other things of this nature."]

Peres told Papoulias it is possible to complete the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho within three to four weeks. Prime Minister Rabin told the Greek foreign minister, on the other hand, that between three to four weeks will be required for finalizing and signing the agreement with the PLO, whereas the implementation of the agreement will require six more weeks.

According to Israeli political sources the U.S. Administration has made it clear to the PLO—via meetings between senior State Department officials and Nabil Sha'th—that the United States has no intention of getting actively involved in the negotiations. According to reports which have reached Jerusalem, the Americans told Sha'th—who demanded that settlements such as Netzarim and the Jewish settlement in Hebron be dismantled—that they will accept "whatever you conclude with Israel."

The PLO has sent its delegates to an agricultural conference in Cordova, Spain, attended by regional experts in the framework of the multilateral peace talks. Aside from the Palestinians and Israelis, representatives of Arab countries participating in the multilateral talks also attended the meeting. Israeli sources last week expressed the fear that the delay in the bilateral talks would also suspend the multilateral talks. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Official Voices 'Dismay' Over UN Delay

NC0603153194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Statement by Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid following meeting with the ambassadors of the 15 member-states of the UN Security Council in Cairo on 6 March—recorded]

[Text] I have expressed my dismay and sorrow at the Security Council's delay in adopting a resolution about the terrible Hebron massacre even though 10 days have already passed since the incident. This is politically and morally unacceptable. We hope that the Security Council will hasten to issue a resolution implementing the rules of the Fourth Geneva Convention in order to provide international protection for the Palestinians, disarm the settlers, and dismantle the settlements. We believe that this massacre has had a profound effect on the peace process. We wish to preserve the peace process. If you look at paragraph six of the resolution before you, it says that the two countries sponsoring the peace conference will urge earnest action to ensure the success of the peace efforts by halting Israeli procrastination. Regrettably, Israel's procrastination has gone on too long and is intolerable. Therefore, it is necessary to point out how dangerous this procrastination is. Doubtlessly, the whole world welcomed the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September 1993. The Arab League regarded it as an important step on the path to peace, but we later heard Israeli Prime Minister Rabin say that some of the deadlines in the declaration are not sacred. Of course, you have heard these remarks. The first step in the agreement should have been implemented on 13 December; now we are approaching the 13 April deadline, the date set for the troops' evacuation and the establishment of autonomy. Will anything be implemented on this date or is 13 April also not a sacred date? If nothing is sacred why is it mentioned in the agreement? I am surprised at this. There is no need to specify dates if we are then going to say they are not sacred.

Of course, I drew attention to this point today. I asked the ambassadors and envoys of the 15 Security Council members to inform their governments of all this. I

believe they will do so today in view of the fact that the Security Council is due to meet again on Monday morning. We still have ample time for contacts because of the six or seven-hour time difference between Cairo and New York. Over there they have not yet woke up today. This gives us enough time to make contacts and enable the envoys to call up their capitals, who can contact UN headquarters. We hope that when this happens a resolution will be adopted very quickly.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH 24 Feb

NC0503212094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 24 February issue of Cairo AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Government Violations of Human Rights
2. Government Urged To Recognize Muslim Brotherhood
3. Islamists Win, Contest Trade Union Elections; Writer Comments
4. Writer Notes Plans To Improve Ties With Israel
5. Conspiracy Against Islamic Education
6. Preacher al-Ghazali Urges Islamic Upbringing
7. Writers Refute Secularists' Claims
8. Writer Urges Conformity Between Laws and Shari'ah
9. Islam and the Family
10. Western Intentions in Bosnia Doubted

GOVERNMENT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In its 24 February issue, the opposition AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH publishes on page 7 an approximately 1,500-word report by 'Ala' Tawfiq on human rights violations in Egypt, which the writer says "cannot be worse." Against pictures of a bearded Islamist behind bars and defendants being led to court, the report cites several human rights activists on torture of detainees, forced confessions, application of emergency laws, and degradation of man's humanity. Najad al-Bura'i, secretary general of the Egyptian Human Rights Organization, refutes government allegations that human rights groups defend criminals and ignore the rights of victims. He says: "We defend and urge protection of defendants as humans. We do not seek to prevent their trial or punishment, nor do we want to affect trials. We demand protection of defendants as human beings; we want to protect their human and legal rights." Asked whether Egypt observes human rights in a satisfactory manner, al-Bura'i—according to the writer—"was content with only a sarcastic smile."

Muhsin 'Awad, assistant secretary of the Arab Human Rights Organization, notes violation of rights such as arrest and torture of workers on strike and the existence of laws conflicting with international conventions. He concludes: "I tell those who say that human rights in Egypt are observed well that they are illusioned, tendentious, and deviants from the truth."

Dr. Ahmad al-Majdub, of the National Center for Criminal Research, urges fair trials in civilian courts, "not by a military judge who takes orders." Challenging official statements on respect for human rights, al-Majdub rhetorically asks: "Do attacking houses without strong incriminating evidence, referring cases to military courts, preventing defense lawyers from seeing documents, denying defendants the right to appear before civilian judges, and applying the emergency law for many years indicate respect for, or even presence of, human rights?"

—In a separate 1,000-word column on the same page, the paper publishes "examples of torture victims," giving names and cases of a number of people who were tortured in police centers, some of whom died as a result. The paper cites official forensic medicine reports to substantiate its claims.

—In a related 200-word news report on page 1, the paper says security campaigns in the southern governorate of Asyut have been seeing "brutal practices and serious excesses against women, old men, and children." The paper says raids on houses are carried out at random, with police breaking down doors and forcing young men to leave their houses and take off their clothes amid floods of harassment and oaths to force them to give information. The report says that in their raids, police forces arrest hundreds of innocent people and detain them in camps in Asyut without giving reasons. The police reportedly seize private passenger vehicles to use in their campaigns. The report cites a National Democratic Party official in Asyut as warning against the repercussions of these security campaigns, noting that they make people sympathetic to the Islamic Group's violence. "The barbaric police acts have only increased violence," the official is quoted as saying.

—Another 100-word news report on page 1 says security forces raided a girls' high school last week to force veiled students to remove their veils despite a court decision allowing the practice. The report notes that the education minister had objected to the court decision and decided to appeal.

RECOGNITION OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD URGED

A 300-word article by Mahmud Yasir Ramadan, the newspaper's board chairman, urges that the Muslim Brotherhood be included in the national dialogue due to take place in April because the group, whether the government likes it or not, "is an influential political force" in the country. Noting that all opposition parties recognize the Muslim Brotherhood as a political force, not as a charity or service society, Ramadan says it is high time the ruling National Democratic Party did the same. "If we want the dialogue to succeed and effectively

achieve results to save the homeland and its citizens from the negative consequences of extremist ideas, then we must accept moderate political forces, no matter what their inclinations," he writes. To support his call, Ramadan maintains that "failure to grant the Muslim Brotherhood official or semi- official recognition is the primary reason for the emergence of the political violence groups, which we call terrorist or extremist groups."

ISLAMISTS WIN, CONTEST TRADE UNION ELECTIONS; WRITER COMMENTS

On page 9, which is devoted to news of trade unions and professional associations, the paper reports a "major victory" for the Islamic trend in the election of the Agronomists Association. It says that for the first time in the history of the association, the Islamic trend won the majority of seats in the mid-term renewal elections in most of the country's governorates. The paper comments: "The big victory reflects the people's genuine longing for the Islamic solution." It claims that the victory was achieved despite administrative pressure from Agriculture Ministry officials and threats to supporters of the Islamic trend.

—Other reports say that the Islamic trend will lead the Lawyers Association elections in Cairo and al-Jizah on 17 March, and will contest the Pharmacists mid-term renewal elections on 29 March.

—An approximately 800-word article by Dr. Faruq 'Abd-al-Salam on page 4 comments on the Islamic trend's successes in trade union elections. He notes the failure of the government's effort to curb these successes when it introduced a professional associations election law "that was especially designed to combat the Muslim Brotherhood trend" under the pretext of serving the general interest. 'Abd-al-Salam argues: "Today, the Islamic trend sticks in the throat of the ruling regime. The Islamic trend is exposing the regime's claims of democracy, and the ruling party's claim that it enjoys a majority." "It is futile, ridiculous, and surprising," the writer adds, "for the ruling party to claim any majority of any kind when it cannot, no matter what influence and deviant methods it uses, win one-tenth of what the Islamists win in the professional associations." The writer sees irony in the fact that while the regime is claiming democracy, "the trend enjoying true majority in these sensitive positions is the only trend denied the right to form a political party."

WRITER NOTES PLANS TO IMPROVE TIES WITH ISRAEL

An approximately 1,500-word article by Fathi al-Mansuri on page 7 discusses prospects of Egypt's Middle East policies in the near future as concluded from articles published in government newspapers. The writer particularly summarizes or gives excerpts from two lengthy articles by AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' on 11 and 18 February calling for joint projects and warmer relations with Israel to serve Egypt's interests.

The writer, making little comment, says such articles normally reflect official policy and pave the way for certain future measures. He says Nafi' articles stress that "what was being discussed as merely a possibility and speculation—normalization with Israel, removal of the boycott, and the Jewish entity playing its role, especially through economic Middle Eastern projects—is virtually becoming true."

CONSPIRACY AGAINST ISLAMIC EDUCATION

An approximately 1,000-word report by Hani al-Makkawi reviews what the writer terms a "conspiracy against education" to obliterate Islamic identity and entrench Western culture. The report also contains tables showing the percentage of Islamic material deleted from textbooks. It cites an al-Azhar educational official as saying that "under the current education minister, everything related to Islamic, Arab, and national eras has been deleted from textbooks." He gives examples of several deletions from Islamic and pan-Arab subjects to show that the purpose is "to open the door wide to the Americans and Jews." An Islamic history professor is also cited on attempts "to distort Islamic history under the pretext of modernization" of the educational curricula.

AL-GHAZALI URGES ISLAMIC UPBRINGING

A 2,500-word report by Yasir al-Dukkani on page 8 discusses a seminar on Islamic culture attended by Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali and several other Islamic scholars. The report cites Shaykh al-Ghazali as stressing the importance of Islamic upbringing to solve the Islamic nation's problems and stop its defeats. Al-Ghazali also stresses that Islam must not be viewed narrowly where marginal differences and minor details not affecting the essence of Islam are highlighted. Al-Ghazali is cited as saying: "I used to fight on two fronts: communism and stagnation, and today I am also fighting on two fronts, secularism and extremism." He adds: "This nation must return to its origins and first culture. Islam does not know nationalities or imported ideas. Anyone taking Islam or the return to it lightly is an apostate."

WRITERS REFUTE SECULARISTS CLAIMS

Two articles of about 1,500-words each on page 8 react to "slanders" by secularist writers and their accusations that the Islamic culture is closed-minded. The first article, by Yasir al-Rikani, cites some Islamist thinkers as defending Islamic thought, its openness to other cultures, and its call for using the mind.

At the end of the second article, in which writer Dr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman refutes a claim by secular writer Dr. Fu'ad Zakariya that the principles of Islam conflict with the causality theory, the writer says: "We know for sure that Western media will not stop their

attacks on Muslims until they abandon Islam and embrace the infidel materialistic philosophy, thus losing their intellectual independence and distinguished identity and becoming submissive slaves to the West, like the Red Indians."

WRITER URGES CONFORMITY BETWEEN LAWS AND SHARI'AH

A 500-word article entitled "The Citizen and the Law" by Dr. al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Miliji on page 4 notes that citizens are living in fear most of the time because they wonder whether things they do violate some law or another. This is a result of much harassment and accusations, he says. "We hope that the laws, legislated in dark ages to oppress and frighten citizens into becoming tools in the hand of rulers, will be realigned," he writes. He adds: "There is hope that the laws will be put in harmony with our [Islamic] creed so that there will be no conflict between what we believe and what is imposed on us under the so-called laws."

ISLAM AND THE FAMILY

Page 3 features a report and two columns on the Muslim family and the importance of keeping it cohesive. Writers maintain that Islam protects women's rights and safeguards their status in society. The approximately 3,000-word report by Hisham Khadr laments the fact that Egyptian men are allowing their wives or daughters to travel abroad for work. It cites experts and specialists as saying that this helps in the collapse of families and other social problems. Contending that Islam does not allow women to travel abroad unaccompanied by a male member of the family, the writer wonders how men could possibly allow their wives, sisters, or daughters to travel abroad on their own: "Where is dignity, gallantry, manhood, religion?" he bitterly asks.

WESTERN INTENTIONS IN BOSNIA DOUBTED

A 500-word article by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on page 5 argues that the Western intervention in Bosnia is aimed at stopping the successes that the Muslim Bosnians have recently been making. The writer says the NATO threat basically aimed at preventing Muslims from using their main weapon—heavy artillery—while only collecting the Serbs' heavy weapons in certain places where they can be used against Muslims in other Bosnian cities.

In another 600-word article on page 10, Chief Editor Mahmud 'Atiyah also casts doubts on Western intentions in Bosnia but mainly assails the position of Russia, which he says wanted to revive its lost glory "at the expense of the cheap Muslim blood." He also attacks the UN secretary general's position on Bosnia and urges Muslim peoples to give donations for their Muslim brothers in Bosnia.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 1 Mar

NC0703091094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 1 March issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Writers React to Ibrahimi Mosque Massacre
2. Enlightenment Convoy Discusses Hebron Massacre, Satellite Dish
3. Al-Azhar Students Denounce Hebron Massacre, Demand Israeli Ambassador's Expulsion
4. Grand Imam Urges Youth To Seek Knowledge
5. Seminar Discusses Extremism, Conflict With West

WRITERS REACT TO IBRAHIMI MOSQUE MASSACRE

The 1 March edition of the state-owned religious weekly 'AQIDATI features several articles, commentaries, and reports that react to the "Ibrahimi Mosque massacre" and its repercussions.

In his 350-word column on page 1, Chairman of the Board Samir Rajab says he refuses to believe that the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was committed by an individual or group of individuals. "It is an entangled conspiracy that involves several powers, including Israel's Army in its entirety as well as its government, because, unfortunately, they do not want this nation to advance or flourish," he argues.

Noting that U.S. and NATO threats were heard only after everything was lost in Muslim Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rajab affirms that the same thing will happen to the Palestinians, "unless positive international protection is provided for them through firm, effective, and rigid measures." He suggests that the lack of Arab and Islamic solidarity will further aggravate things and, admitting that "peace is essential," emphasizes that this peace must be based on justice. He warns that "any aggression against Islam will lead to a very severe and violent reaction."

Basyuni al-Halwani's 400-word column on page 6 contends that the massacre proves to the world that "God's chosen people are the most deceptive and treacherous and they break promises." He hopes the states that defend Israeli terrorism and back their crimes would "review their biased policy, abandon their support for injustice and aggression, and turn over a new leaf on Muslim issues" by dealing fairly with them.

Al-Halwani believes it is unlikely that the culprits will get their fair share of punishment, despite the growing world anger. Citing the Bosnian example in this context, he remarks: "The world tolerates and encourages Jews to

commit their crimes, as long as these crimes are being committed against Muslims."

He wonders whether Muslims will suffice themselves with condemnation and denunciation after the massacre or will "wake up, quit their differences and imaginative battles," and adopt firmer decisions. He appeals to Muslims to "wake up before it is too late," contending that Muslim blood has become "the cheapest on earth."

Majdi Salim's 400-word article on page 10 views the issue in another perspective, picturing the world as a "chessboard" controlled by "a single, very skillful player"—the United States.

Simplifying his idea, Salim writes: The "first act of the world farce" opened with the "Serbian barbarians'" bombardment of the market place in Sarajevo. The West threatened, the Islamic world denounced and condemned, and NATO addressed an ultimatum to the Serbs, he says.

The "second act" was opened by Russia, "which is now begging from America." Redeploying the Serbian troops, Russia compelled the West not to launch an air strike against Serbs, he says.

Still in the second act, Salim writes that a Jewish terrorist committed a heinous crime in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. The writer states: "The chess player who moves the pieces wants to close the second act of the farce without harming genuine world terrorism and its architect, the state with the six-sided star," he writes.

"The skillful player begins the third act of the farce by offering a toy to Muslims to play with, forget the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, and hail the civilized West, which carried out its threat and shot down four Serbian planes as they were bombarding Muslims in Sarajevo," Salim concludes.

In a 150-word commentary on page 20, 'Adil Dayf writes that the massacre came as no surprise to those who follow "the Israelis' criminal history." Emphasizing that "these criminals must be isolated completely, surrounded, abandoned, and punished severely," he stresses that "sanctions must involve the Israeli Government, which encourages such crimes against Muslims." He warns that failure to punish the criminals will encourage the recurrence of crimes.

Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl's 300-word article on page 20 contends that "no matter how many decisions are taken to disarm the extremist settlers, the Israeli Government will be unable to stop Zionist massacres, since it is very easy for the crazy murderers who believe in the supremacy of the Jewish race to conceal weapons."

Recalling that the intifadah ensued following a similar massacre by the settlers in Gaza in December 1987, Abu-al-Hawl states: "There will be no peace between the Palestinians and Israelis unless the Zionist settlements are totally removed."

A 250-word commentary by Ibrahim Nasr on page 23 claims the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre is only "a link in the chain of notorious massacres committed once in a while—after accurate calculations and at set times—to determine the extent to which the cold parts of the Arab nation's body will heat up."

He remarks that it is "no longer acceptable to hear the phrase 'land for peace' with Israel, since Israel owns the land through occupation and controls its people." What war does Israel fear now that it has made real peace with the heart of the Arab nation and its long arm?, he asks.

Doubting that the intifadah can shake Israel, he notes that Israeli media try to present the issue in this light to justify the criminal acts.

Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf opens his 500-word column on page 24 with the remark: "How cheap Muslim blood has become." Claiming inaction by the "new world order" over the killing of dozens of Muslims in Sarajevo by "the Serbian pigs," he refers to a "new crime in the long chain of Zionist crimes against Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular."

He contends that the principles and strategies that govern the Israeli mentality have not changed since the state of Israel was established almost 50 ago.

"Unless this mentality is changed, the reality will not change, the bloody incidents will not stop, the file of violence and terrorism will not be closed, and real peace will not be established for either Arabs or Israelis," he says. He adds that the Israeli mentality will not change unless Arabs develop the ability to refuse and to act. "Until this happens, Muslim blood will remain cheap," he concludes.

ENLIGHTENMENT CONVOY DISCUSSES HEBRON MASSACRE, SATELLITE DISH

Muhammad al-Abnudi reports on the "enlightenment convoy" that the Awqaf minister leads around the Republic. In a 700-word report on page 2, al-Abnudi writes that scholars and lecturers affirmed in their meeting with the masses in al-Sharqiyah Governorate that the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre is "a mark of disgrace on the forehead of the Islamic nation and proof to everyone that terrorist operations are not launched by Muslims as the West claims."

The report adds that the masses denounced this vicious aggression and stressed the need to support Jerusalem's Muslims and give top priority to finding solutions for the problems.

The report adds that the meeting discussed other issues, including Egypt's stance on the massacres to which Bosnian Muslims are being subjected. Asked about Egypt's role in this connection, Cairo University President Dr. Mufid Shihab highlights that "Egypt needs domestic stability to play its role best."

The meeting raised the issue of the Western media and receiving programs by satellite dish. Asked about this, Amin Basyuni, Radio and Television Union chairman, remarks: "The problem does not lie in the dish but in how we handle it, since we cannot isolate ourselves from the world." He believes that there is no alternative for building "a strong, Muslim, Egyptian man" who can distinguish right from wrong.

AL-AZHAR STUDENTS DENOUNCE MASSACRE, DEMAND ISRAELI AMBASSADOR'S EXPULSION

A 100-word report on page 3 says that over 10,000 students in al- Azhar University staged "a peaceful demonstration" on 27 February to denounce the Hebron massacre.

The report adds that "a statement by the student union condemned the incident and demanded the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador."

GRAND IMAM URGES YOUTH TO SEEK KNOWLEDGE

In the 3d of a series of articles, al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq urges youth to seek knowledge and use it to enhance their nation's strength and lead it to progress. In his 1,000-word article on page 3, he cites examples from Islamic history to show that the Islamic nation has always respected its knowledgeable and pious youth.

SEMINAR DISCUSSES EXTREMISM, CONFLICT WITH THE WEST

A 3,000-word report on page 4 gives an account of a seminar 'AQIDATI organized in the Flying Institute in al-Sharqiyah under the banner "Ramadan, the Month of Mercy and Sympathy."

Speaking at the seminar, Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf is cited affirming that Egypt is "in good shape" and that "extremism is an exception."

Al-Azhar Professor Dr. Muhammad Fayid Haykal replied to a question on "how to restore the Islamic nation's lost glory amid imported currents." He is quoted as saying that this can only be achieved by "raising our children according to sound Islamic principles." Noting that the conflict between the Islamic nation and the West is a cultural and intellectual one, he called for "directing the youth to the intellectual and cultural sides of Islam" so that they can read and understand Islam properly and help their nation to assume its rightful place in the world.

The seminar also discusses fasting and its effect on Muslims.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Briefs U.S. Envoy on Latest Developments

LD0503232494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met U.S. Ambassador in Tunis John McCarthy yesterday evening. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest political developments and the dimensions and repercussions on the peace process and the current negotiations of the massacre at the holy Ibrahimi mosque perpetrated by Zionist settlers.

They also reviewed the deliberations of the UN Security Council regarding a resolution on the massacre perpetrated by the settlers, the need to guarantee international protection for our Palestinian people, and the disarming of the Zionist settlers so that such a massacre would not be repeated.

They also reviewed the Palestinian-U.S. meeting chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th [as heard], which is currently being held with U.S. officials in Washington so that the Security Council can come up with an effective resolution.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], the head of the PLO Political Department, Brother Hayil al-Fahum, the head of the European section in the political department, and Dr. Sami Musallam, head of the president's office.

'Arafat Briefs Russian Envoy on PLO Position

JN0603205294 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and head of the PLO Executive Committee, has received special Russian envoy Igor Ivanov, who has been visiting Israel. The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, indicated that Ivanov acquainted brother Abu-'Ammar with the outcome of his talks with the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister.

Brother Abu-'Ammar laid out for the Russian envoy the PLO's basic demand that protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories be ensured before the talks can be resumed. Brother Abu-'Ammar reiterated the PLO's position that the United Nations must secure protection for the Palestinians and disarm Jewish settlers. The brother president, WAFA adds, told the Russian envoy he was disturbed that the UN Security Council found it hard to pass a resolution that would make it possible for the peace talks to resume and for secure protection for the Palestinians throughout the occupied territories to be ensured. The meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere and demonstrated that the Palestinian and Russian viewpoints were identical.

According to a Palestinian source, brother Abu-'Ammar earlier received the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, John McCarthy, to discuss continuing consultations about a

UN Security Council resolution on the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Russia is widely thought to be in favor of a resolution providing for international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, while the United States and Israel are opposed.

Contacts Said Under Way for 'Arafat-Peres Meeting

JN0603204594 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] According to Israeli radio, the PLO and the Israeli Government are holding contacts about a possible meeting today or tomorrow between brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Shim'on Peres, who will try to talk him into resuming the negotiations. Peres sent a message to brother Abu-'Ammar regarding expediting the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, boosting the size of the Palestinian police force, taking over immediate [as heard] responsibility for the Strip and Jericho, and the deployment of international observers in the projected Palestinian self-rule area.

PLO Reportedly Rules Out Meeting

NC0603143194 Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 6 (AFP)—The PLO on Sunday [6 March] ruled out a meeting between its leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres because of the tensions stirred by the Hebron massacre.

The Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ reported that Peres wanted to meet 'Arafat in Cairo on Monday to put the peace talks back on track.

"The atmosphere is not suitable for such a meeting," the PLO representative to Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, told AFP, referring to the February 25 mosque massacre in Hebron on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Kamal criticized the UN Security Council, which has been in session for the last week, for "not adopting a resolution condemning Israel after the massacre."

The proposed resolution condemning the massacre by an Israeli settler has been held up by a disagreement between the PLO and United States over a reference to Jerusalem and to an international presence in the occupied territories.

HA'ARETZ said the call for an 'Arafat-Peres meeting was passed on to the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Tunis by Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, who has been touring the Middle East.

Peres said meanwhile that Israel was ready to respond to the Palestinian conditions for a resumption of the autonomy talks which were broken off in the wake of the mosque carnage.

"We have no reason to oppose demands which can advance the peace process and calm the situation," he told Israeli radio.

"We can for example agree to enlarge the ranks of the Palestinian police and to ban armed settlers from entering a Palestinian village under curfew," said Peres, who signed a security deal with 'Arafat in Cairo on February 9.

'Arafat was expected in the Egyptian capital later Sunday for talks with President Husni Mubarak on the Hebron massacre.

He was also due to meet Nabil Sha'th, his political adviser, who travelled to Washington last week for talks with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the Palestinian demands, said Kamal.

The PLO wants Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip and West Bank to be disarmed after a settler shot dead dozens of Muslim worshipers in Hebron.

It has also called for international protection and the dismantling of some Jewish settlements, notably Qiryat Arba' near Hebron, where mosque killer Barukh Goldstein lived, and settlements in the town centre.

Peres told the US television network CNN on Saturday that Israel accepted Palestinian demands for security guarantees, including the presence of international observers, but the details would have to be discussed. He was in favour of "the presence of a temporary foreign or international group" in the territories.

But Prime Minister 'Yitzhak Rabin has ruled out any armed observers saying the only international role in the territories would be to monitor how the Palestinians spend money from donor countries during autonomy.

PLO Officials Hold Consultations on Negotiations

JN0703095094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Mar 94 pp 32, 24

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that several PLO Executive Committee members in Amman continue to hold meetings and consultations to formulate a unified stand on the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations.

Some of those holding such contacts are Yasir 'Amr, Sulayman al-Najjab, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Taysir Khalid, and 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh.

Sha'th: UN Nearing Agreement on Observers

NC0403202294 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has announced that the United Nations is about to reach an agreement, which will receive United

States backing, to deploy armed international observers to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Sha'th told MBC in Washington today that he discussed the Palestinian demands in this regard with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

[Begin recording] [MBC correspondent in Washington 'Aziz Fahmi] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher received Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, in Washington this morning in an attempt to settle the current differences between the two sides over the Palestinians' return to the negotiating table. The Americans want the negotiations to resume now and then discuss during the negotiations securing protection for the Palestinians and disarming the settlers. But the Palestinians want to settle this before they return to the negotiating table as a condition for the resumption of the negotiations.

The MBC met Dr. Sha'th before he left for the State Department to meet Warren Christopher.

[Sha'th] We are here for negotiations with the U.S. side to secure all means of international protection, disarming the settlers, and the necessary security measures to guarantee security for the Palestinian people. These are the requirements for restoring momentum to the peace process to complete our achievements. Hence, I believe the U.S. side understands that there is need for Palestinian security but it should understand that this requires measures, not just an expression of principles.

[Fahmi] What if they refuse?

[Sha'th] We do not jump to conclusions. We have come here to meet Secretary Christopher to get what we want. So I cannot begin the talks by expecting a rejection.

[Fahmi] Meanwhile, press sources cited the PLO representative at the United Nations as saying that Dr. Nabil Sha'th must discuss with Warren Christopher the deadlocked UN discussions. It is known that the United States suspended these discussions until it reaches agreement with the Palestinians on drafting the resolution due to be passed by the Security Council. The Palestinians' main aim now is to secure Israel's and United States' consent to the principle of the presence of international observers to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Israel has rejected this demand since it occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967. [end recording]

Sha'th Reiterates Call for UN Force in Territories

LD0603171494 Stockholm Radio Sweden in Swedish 1545 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Both the PLO leadership and the Israeli Government want to restart the peace process, but the question is to what extent Israel thinks it can meet the PLO's demands. We will first go over to Oslo, which is being visited by PLO negotiators:

[Correspondent Johan Fredriksson] The PLO's main condition for resuming the peace talks is that armed UN supervisors should be stationed in the occupied territories. It does not have to be a big force, the PLO's chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th said when he visited Oslo today.

[Begin Sha'th recording, in English] We are not calling for a major army of separation. We need the presence—the strong, effective presence—of people who know about security, and that is, I think, why we needed armed observers. [end recording]

[Fredriksson] In addition to this, however, the Israeli Government must, on the one hand, put an end to the violence that its own army uses in Gaza and on the West Bank. On the other hand, it must also disarm the militant settlers in the regions, Sha'th says.

[Begin Sha'th recording, in English] Half the element is to have an international presence; the other half is to have an Israeli restriction of the settler violence. [end recording]

[Fredriksson] This is Johan Fredriksson in Oslo.

Negotiators Reject Israeli Demand on Collaborators

TA0203153094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Mar 94 pp 1, 18

[By Sa'idah Hamad]

[Excerpt] Ramallah, QUDS PRESS—Professor Bassam Jarrar and Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, Palestinian negotiators in the talks for implementing the self-rule accord, have warned against "capitulating" to Israeli demands regarding the release of prisoners in return for providing protection to collaborators with the Israeli forces.

Bassam Jarrar, a leading Ramallah dignitary, has said that "Israel is interested in providing protection for its agents." He pointed out that giving guarantees that no harm will befall collaborators with the occupation in exchange for the release of detainees held by the authorities aims at "encouraging those individuals and others to collaborate with Israel." He added: This will set a dangerous precedent that will help Israel to continue recruiting collaborators even after the self-rule accord is implemented. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh on International Observers, Talks

JN0403150794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Interview with PLO Information Department Head Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by unidentified reporter in Paris on 4 March—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, following the Hebron

massacre and within the framework of the PLO campaign to explain its demands for resuming the negotiations with Israel, you are now visiting Paris, and you met with officials here. What topics were discussed and what stands were expressed?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Today, a meeting was held with the French foreign and defense ministers. At this meeting, we explained the stand of the Palestinian command, emphasizing the need to provide all security guarantees for the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories as a necessary step before the peace process is resumed. At the forefront of these demands is the issue of ending settlement activities, the armed presence of the settlers, and some settlement centers that are a real obstacle and a time bomb threatening any peace arrangements that could be reached. At the same time, we must not forget the importance of the presence of international forces in the occupied territories with full authorization from the UN Security Council to carry out their role of safeguarding security and monitoring Israeli respect for the security of the Palestinian people and their rights. I can say that the French and Palestinian stands on these points are in agreement, and that France is playing its role as the current UN Security Council president by issuing a UN Security Council resolution that will help us start implementing such arrangements and measures.

[Reporter] Has France agreed to send international forces to the occupied territories?

['Abd-Rabbuh] France today said that it agrees to an effective international presence in the occupied territories authorized by the UN Security Council and the United Nations, and that this international presence should have a practical role in preventing any violations against the Palestinian people, particularly after the massacre that was committed in Hebron one week ago.

[Reporter] What capitals will you visit after France?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Today, we will also meet with the EC leadership in Brussels, and with the Belgian foreign minister. We will explain the Palestinian stand within the framework of common action with Europe and all other forces eager to preserve the peace process and have it proceed without impediments and without any mines being laid on the road, such as the presence of the Israeli terrorists, the settlers, and the extremist forces that support them.

[Reporter] The international envoys that have traveled to Tunis to meet with the Palestinians and to Israel, including the Russian envoy and the Greek envoy, whose country chairs the EC, have urged the Palestinian and Israeli sides to resume the negotiations. When do you expect the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will resume?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We seek to resume the negotiations as soon as possible. However, the resumption of the negotiations calls for real guarantees. The question is not one of sitting around a table only. The question is to reach, on the ground, a secure and sound state of affairs with respect to the Palestinian citizens, a situation that does not expose them to the Israeli terrorism at any moment.

[Reporter] Are you satisfied with the development of the international stand in this respect?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We believe that most of those who represent the international stand are sympathetic and understand the realism of the Palestinian stand and Palestinian demands, as well as the Palestinian side's concern over the peace process and its continuation. The international stand now completely understands that the obstacles placed by the terrorist settlers and others should be completely removed so that the peace process may be resumed, and so that steps and measures can be taken on the road to implementing the peace agreement and not only to sit at the table of negotiations.

[Reporter] Reports from Israel speak of a serious dialogue between the Rabin government and the extremist right-wing party Tzomet to have it join the coalition government. Tzomet's stands are known to be against the autonomy agreement and to support the presence of the settlements, not to mention the other extremist stands. What do the Palestinians think about this development?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Of course, this is a negative development. The strange thing is that Rabin's government, which claims it is against extremism, seeks to deal with extremism by resorting to more extremism. We are closely watching this issue, especially since the differences between Eytan, Kahane, and the other extremist gangs are minor. They all agree on the same platform—on adopting a racist stand against the Palestinians.

Executive Member al-Najjab on Massacre, Talks

JN0603120894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Mar 94 p 17

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab by Tawfiq 'Abid, "at his residence" on 5 March]

[Text] ['Abid] The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre has dealt a severe blow to Palestinian action at this stage. Is it possible to contain the effects of this massacre? How?

[Al-Najjab] The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre cannot be contained. The same goes for the continuing massacre committed by the Israeli Army all over our occupied territories. The effects of what happened cannot be contained on the Palestinian, Arab, Israeli, and international levels. Any attempt to bypass the massacre, similar to what Israel and the United States are trying to do, will result in the failure of the peace process.

There is a national Palestinian consensus on the need to suspend the negotiations and to have a more serious stand toward this far-reaching Israeli crime. The crime has raised again the question of providing security and

protection for the victimized Palestinian people, and not for the Israeli settlers and Army, who carried out this massacre.

This is not the first massacre the Israeli occupation committed against our people that has elicited worldwide condemnation and anger. The Israeli side, however, has continued to get away with these massacres.

All sincere people should now work to prevent the repetition of this bestial crime. This is very important. Another point is that the impact of this massacre on the negotiating process, as well as Israel's actual stand—apart from sympathy— should be assessed.

This massacre and subsequent developments have cast a heavy shadow on the entire negotiating process. Regrettably, the U.S. position, which has not stopped being hostile to our people despite the end of the Cold War, is still keeping the Security Council and the world community from taking the necessary steps to prevent a repeat of this crime. The Security Council has been holding deliberations for a second week without reaching a serious resolution in this regard.

The Palestinian side and the other Arab brothers should reflect on what happened and draw lessons about the true U.S. position and how to deal with it as it is without embellishing it.

We should consider that the European and Russian positions are better than the U.S. position, which still insists on imposing an Israeli solution on all Palestinians and Arabs and which is playing a serious role in obstructing the progress of negotiations.

On the Palestinian level, whether the negotiations continue or not, the question of ensuring protection for the Palestinian people and stopping the crimes committed against them must top the agenda of the Palestinian leadership.

In the aftermath of the massacre, the Rabin government has imposed a curfew and comprehensive siege against more than two million Palestinians under occupation. The Israeli side has also adopted other measures to fully isolate Jerusalem from the rest of our occupied territory and to bolster its annexation to Israel. In addition, the confiscation of territory and expansion of settlements has not stopped. More than 10,000 Palestinians remain in the occupation prisons.

Moreover, thousands of deportees are still away from their homeland. The question being asked by every Palestinian citizen is: How can we believe Israel is serious about reaching a settlement based on Resolution 242 when the first item of this resolution stipulates Israel's withdrawal from all the 1967-occupied territories, including Jerusalem?

The isolation of the Palestinian negotiator from his people will weaken him and weaken the front of negotiations if we regard it as a new struggle and and a new front to end the Israeli occupation.

The recent massacres have put the Oslo and Cairo agreements to the test and shown the serious gaps in these accords, particularly with regard to the question of settlements, which is postponed until the final status negotiations.

The criminal acts practiced by settlers and the measures taken by the Israeli Government to curb them are trivial and can deceive nobody. I would like to ask: What will be the state of Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho if one of the settlers in Gaza, Jericho, or Hebron—who is fully protected in accordance with the Cairo accord—commits a new crime? If we are talking about a real withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, all settlers must withdraw from these two areas. Regrettably, the Cairo accord, which was signed by President 'Arafat alone, thereby violating the Executive Committee's decision, has turned the withdrawal from Gaza, stipulated by the Oslo Declaration, into a redeployment of forces because it has given the Israeli settlements—under the pretext of maintaining their security—an area which is three times the actual areas of these settlements. The Cairo accord also gave the Israeli Army the right to control and move patrols on three roads in Gaza, which have fragmented the strip into separate parts. The Israeli side refuses to expand the Jericho area to more than 50 km under the pretext that there should be no Israeli settlements in the area.

This situation simply calls for going back on what was agreed upon in Cairo and Oslo in this regard and for insisting on the withdrawal of the settlements together with the Israeli forces in these areas so that there will be no excuse to maintain the Israeli Army in these positions.

Furthermore, the recent massacre and subsequent acts have canceled any sense of security among the Palestinians, particularly if the settlers, such as the gangs of settlers in Hebron, are close to them. This requires the immediate evacuation of these settlers—a matter adopted by one-half of the Israeli Cabinet.

The crime also exposed the serious mistake represented by delaying the discussion of settlements to the final stage. This mistake must be rectified before there can be any talk about resuming the negotiations. We have paid a heavy price for the Palestinian side's acceptance of the Israeli concept of peace and the Israeli interpretation of the Declaration of Principles, as was very evident in the Cairo accord.

['Abid] Following the massacre, we have seen a split in the Palestinian arena. Some people call for withdrawal from the talks and others call for suspending these talks. Where do you stand in this regard?

[Al-Najjab] First, we do not call for withdrawal from the talks. The overwhelming majority of our people support the talks that will lead to a political settlement on the basis of Resolution 242. Suspending the talks is something else. That takes place in any talks. And the suspension in itself is a negotiating stand that shows that the

party that adopts such a stand adheres to its stand, seeks through pooling other national, sisterly, and international forces to influence the other party, and mobilizes world public opinion, including Israeli public opinion, to stand against stands that are undermining the peace process.

We must always remember that the Rabin government is held responsible for obstructing the talks and eroding its credibility in the Palestinian and Israeli streets. Putting the issue of settlements on the top of the agenda receives unanimous Palestinian and large-scale support. Therefore, we should exploit this.

The large-scale criticism of the performance of the Palestinian leadership with regard to exploiting this is correct and legitimate. The hesitation and confusion in announcing the suspension of talks—even following the suspensions of these talks by Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon in solidarity with our people—have weakened the credibility and seriousness of this leadership in responding to a general national stand.

President 'Arafat was quick to accept U.S. President Bill Clinton's invitation to move the negotiations to Washington, without referring to the Executive Committee. By this he contributed to giving the U.S. Administration credibility that it does not deserve. He also gave the illusion that the reason for what is happening is the geographic location of the negotiations, which is not close to the White House in Washington.

We saw how the United States used this acceptance at the Security Council and we now see the current U.S. attempts to prevent the council from adopting a resolution that meets the requirements demonstrated by the recent massacre.

I would like to say here that the U.S. side is trying to force us to pay the price for a formal condemnation of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre by excluding Jerusalem from the occupied territories in the draft resolution.

Regrettably, some Palestinians have the illusion, the same ones as the U.S. side, that delaying the negotiations for a few days will calm the situation and that the negotiations could then be resumed as if nothing happened.

This idea is an illusion because the bullets fired at the faithful worshipers kneeling before God were at the same time fired at the policy followed in the negotiations. The facts raised by this crime are solid and cannot be overcome with the passage of time.

As for the argument that says it is impossible to review the agreements, this conclusion is totally wrong because the agreements are not an objective in themselves. They are a means to implement Resolution 242 and all its articles, to secure the Israeli withdrawal from our occupied land, to guarantee our right to self-determination, and to attain peace and security for all parties in the region.

These agreement proved that they are incapable of securing all these demands, therefore, they should be revised in a manner that serve their purpose. We should consider the meaning of Rabin's insistence on these agreements, and on the Cairo agreement in particular, in refusing to reconsider the subject of settlements and the timing of discussing this subject.

Backing off from unjust and dangerous agreements will not undermine the credibility of the Palestinian leadership, but not considering the dangers contained in these agreements and the possibility that they may lead to more Israeli massacres and entrenchment of occupation will.

['Abid] Some people hold 'Arafat responsible for the massacre, and say that the massacre was the result of the agreements he signed with the Israelis, especially the Cairo agreement. Do you share this view?

[Al-Najjab] I do not believe that a Palestinian or an Arab could say such a thing. How can the victim be responsible for the crime? I can say that the Israeli Government—not 'Arafat as some went too far in saying—is responsible for the crime. We should not make mistakes about this and we should continue to work to let the criminal pay for his crime. The one who occupies our land is the Israeli Army, and it is the Israeli Government that builds settlements, arms settlers, and remains silent toward their recklessness and crimes. In this, the Israeli labor and Likud governments are equals.

['Abid] Some Palestinians have urged 'Arafat to resign, saying he does not represent the Palestinian people any more. Do you share this opinion?

[Al-Najjab] First of all, and in this particular situation, fights and demands should be focused on the perpetrators of the crime. We should distinguish between the measures that should be taken to force the perpetrators of the crime to pay for what they did, and the internal Palestinian demands, or what we call reorganizing the Palestinian house in a manner that develops the performance of the leadership and the Palestinian establishments and restores people's confidence in the PLO.

What should be toppled is the current policy, which has been proven untenable by all the challenges and tasks of the new stage of our national struggle. There are very strong and wide criticism of President 'Arafat's policy. It is up to him now, and he has to decide whether to continue this policy, thus leading to more isolation, or to rise to a new situation.

If this is how I see things, this is because we are talking about an issue of concern to the entire Palestinian community. We are talking about the protection of Palestinian rights and gains. All the national forces, figures, and institutions must join hands to secure international protection for the Palestinian people and to tackle serious problems caused by Israel's arrogance and the open U.S. support it enjoys, as well as the sorry state of Arab solidarity and coordination. Additionally, the

performance of the Palestinian leadership leaves much to be desired and the legitimate Palestinian institutions, including the PLO's Executive Committee, have been in a state of inertia. Nor has there been a commitment to the PLO's plan of action or the peace initiative.

['Abid] 'Arafat is said to be very much in control of the Executive Committee. Why is it that some members are boycotting its sessions most of the time?

[Al-Najjab] I would first like to draw a line between two groups within the PLO, although they have much in common. There is the group of six who tendered their resignation from the Executive Committee. Their resignations, however, are not valid, since it is up to the Palestine National Council to accept or reject them. Another group is supportive of the negotiations.

As for me, I made my boycott of the Executive Committee's sessions known twice. The first time was when 'Arafat unilaterally signed the Cairo agreement, thus presenting the committee with an fait accompli. I and others did not show up for that session and, therefore, it lacked a quorum. The second was when 'Arafat unilaterally accepted President Clinton's invitation for the talks to continue in Washington. 'Arafat thus turned a deaf ear to the voice of local and dispora Palestinians, all of whom want the negotiations to be suspended until international protection is secured. Hence, the call for an Executive Committee meeting so that 'Arafat may explain a decision he made on his own.

Only seven members turned up for that session. Five members did not attend in order to deprive the session of a quorum.

It is not too late yet for the Executive Committee to reconvene, according to rules. To facilitate this, 'Arafat should break off the negotiations and go along with the Palestinian consensus. That would open the door for a serious assessment of the negotiating process and, having drawn the necessary lessons, put it back on track. Such a development would also arrest the deterioration in the Palestinian position as happened when the Palestine Central Council endorsed the Oslo accord by a majority, if with certain qualifications.

We have asked the brothers who resigned from the Executive Committee to attend at least one session at which it may be possible to take a vote on and abrogate the Cairo accord.

['Abid] 'Arafat is said to have files on each and every member of the Executive Committee so that he can win over whoever he needs to whenever he wants to. Is this true?

[Al-Najjab] I have been asked this question often enough by journalists. Regrettably, the cake has been carved up so as to reflect the closeness of this or that PLO member to 'Arafat.

As an old political party [reference to the Palestinian People's Party], whose participation in the Executive Committee is fairly recent, we can claim to have nothing to do with such tactics. How close we are to 'Arafat or other PLO Executive Committee members depends on how much or little we have in common.

We support serious and persistent efforts to defend our people's rights and promote coordination and cooperation with fraternal countries. We participate in a serious mechanism to achieve all this. As is known, we participated in the Washington talks, but we suspended our participation in the ninth session for well-known political reasons in protest against the course of the negotiations and the performance that unfortunately still prevails.

['Abid] But one of your party central committee members still participates in the Taba negotiations?

[Al-Najjab] Hasan 'Asfur was elected as the People's Party Central Committee member at the second party congress. As was announced at the time in the statement and by 'Asfur himself, his participation in the negotiations was a personal decision and he represents no one. It is known that his case was referred to a party commission to have him account for not abiding by his party's decision not to participate in the Taba negotiations.

The fate of 'Asfur, whether he remains a Central Committee member or not, will be decided by the party congress. We are making arrangements to hold this congress. We are a democratic party, and will respect the decisions of the congress, which is the highest authority in the party. As yet, the violations Hasan 'Asfur has committed are organizational and not political violations.

['Abid] Many voices are being raised calling for revenge against the Israelis following the Hebron Mosque massacre. What do you have to say to this?

[Al-Najjab] If we want to really avenge all the victims of the Palestinian people, we must pursue work to seek salvation from the occupation and to wrest our people's national rights. I do not support any personal reaction and I am against attacking Israeli civilians. Our cause is just and the weapon we use should remain clean. It is impermissible to give the Israelis any justification to cover up for their crimes or to give those who defend them in Washington the excuse to speak about terrorism without specifying the party they mean.

We must take into consideration the need not to lose the Israeli voices that condemn the settlers massacres and call for their removal by not carrying out individual operations against civilians.

['Abid] What is required on the Palestinian level at the present stage? How can one develop some of the stands that were shaken by the Hebron Mosque massacre?

[Al-Najjab] Our battle is a protracted one. What is important now is to enhance our national unity, as well as Arab coordination and cooperation, particularly with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. We wish success to the

efforts under way to restore coordination among the parties participating in the negotiations, especially since all the parties abide by the comprehensive solution, which means the implementation of all the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 242 on all the tracks.

We must also pursue work with all of the international parties angered by the recent crime to have them continue and develop their support for our people and rights, taking into consideration that these parties are getting more and more convinced that peace cannot be achieved at the expense of these rights, or by ignoring them.

Envoy Delivers 'Arafat Note to Mubarak, Comments

NC0503111794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo 6 March. He and President Husni Mubarak will hold urgent consultations and comprehensively evaluate the peace process and the developments in the wake of the Hebron massacre.

This was stated by Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, who told MENA in an exclusive statement that late last night he conveyed to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa a message from President 'Arafat on some obstacles the Israelis and Americans are still raising to a UN Security Council resolution condemning the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and approving the deployment of international observers in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestinian ambassador said the United States rejects any mention of Arab Jerusalem in any Security Council resolution on the pretext that Jerusalem will be discussed in the final stage of the negotiations.

Kamal noted that this problem can be overcome by calling for dismantling the settlements and protecting the Palestinians in all the territories occupied in 1967, which implicitly means Arab Jerusalem.

He said 'Arafat's message to the Egyptian leadership is part of the constant, ongoing coordination and consultations between Egypt and the PLO, especially within the framework of Egypt's current efforts to issue a Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron massacre.

The Palestinian ambassador to Egypt said while in Cairo 'Arafat will also receive a report from Dr. Nabil Sha'th on his talks in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and a number of his advisers, especially Dennis Ross, the general coordinator of the Middle East peace talks.

Kamal called on the United States to adopt an effective position on forcing Israel to disarm the settlers, not only in Gaza and Jericho, but also throughout the West Bank, too.

He explained that the issue of an international presence or forces in Gaza and Jericho is not new, as it was mentioned in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles reached in Oslo and signed in Washington on 13 September. Full details of that declaration had been worked out by Palestinian and Israeli negotiators before the al-Ibrahimi massacre, he said.

He stressed that the Palestinians now want the settlers to be disarmed effectively and expeditiously.

Kamal called on the United States to take effective measures to recognize the PLO, as it promised to do during a meeting in Washington in October between PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Hamas Warns Settlers To Leave Before 15 Mar

JN0703131594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] The 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas today addressed a final warning to Jewish settlers to leave their settlements. In a statement distributed in the occupied territories, it set 15 March as the deadline for this evacuation.

The statement, which is signed by the command of 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, says that it has decided to reply militarily through five stages, and that each stage will make the Israeli people and settlers weep over their dead.

Hamas Issues Statement on Planned Activities

JN0403130194 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Mar 94 p 14

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem—Quds Press—The Palestinian Hamas Movement inside the occupied territories has called for challenging the Israeli authorities' decision and go tomorrow, Friday, [as published] to the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron tomorrow, Friday, to perform their prayers.

The movement distributed a statement at the start of a new month for the Palestinian intifadah. The statement says: We call on our kinsfolk and beloved ones in Hebron to challenge the occupation authorities and perform Friday prayers at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque on 4 March, stage a mammoth march after prayers, and throw stones and Molotov cocktails at the occupation authorities' cars, because the Israeli occupation forces have announced the closure of the Ibrahimi Mosque following the massacre and said they will prevent the worshipers from entering the mosque until new security arrangements are taken.

In its statement Hamas said: This statement is a warning to the people. The statement starts with the Koranic verse: "And they ill-treated them for no other reason

than that they believed in God, exalted in power, worthy of all praise." SAWT AL-SHA'B publishes the text of the statement:

O brave men of Hebron. O the lions of Gaza. O the heroes of Nabulus. O the guardians of al-Aqsa Mosque. O the knights of Ramallah and Bethlehem. O the enduring masses in all our towns, villages and camps. O the men, women, youth, and children. Declare it a fresh revolution against the occupation. Cry out Allah Akbar [God is great] and let these cries tear out the hearts of the criminal Zionist occupiers. Let the hearts of the malicious settlers tremble. Pursue the occupation soldiers and attack the gangs of settlers and slay them wherever you catch them for things have come to a head and all the deception has been uncovered. The massacre is evidence as clear as the sun that our Zionist enemy does not respect ties of kinship or covenant. It wants to multiply our wounds so we will surrender and so it will keep anyone it wants and evict anyone it wants. It is doing so under the umbrella of peace, the love of peace, and the headlines of the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

The collaboration of the government of terrorist Rabin with the malicious criminal settlers in this barbaric massacre, after the signing of the treasonous Cairo agreement is a definite indication that all Zionists are the same and that they all harbor hatred against our Muslim people, civilization, and nation.

Let the veil drop from the eyes of those who have illusions about peace with the enemy. Let the symbols of capitulation—those of Madrid, Oslo, Washington, and Cairo, who are crouching in Tunis watching the wounds of our people and nation—fall.

O masses of our garrisoned people. Let the abhorrent barbaric massacre be the start of a new stage in our people's struggle and for the escalation of our national revolution against the wicked occupation, including all its tools and symbols.

Let the land burn under the feet of the occupiers. Let the cries of Allah Akbar be raised. Let the confrontations of our masses with the pillars of occupation continue. Let us foil the policy of capitulation and let the blood of our martyrs and injured ones and the sufferings of our men and women turn into a curse that pursues the occupiers day and night so our national rank will be pure and united on the road of struggle toward victory and liberation.

Masses of our glorious people: The vicious Zionist massacre is a test to our dignity, pride, and vengeance. It may be followed by various other massacres. By God, it is our destiny to be standing on the frontline in our nation's conflict against the criminal Zionists; and, by God, it is inevitable that God will grant us victory over our enemies as long as we embrace the means to achieve victory and rely on God almighty, conqueror of tyrants and infidels.

It was due from us to aid those who believed. God will certainly aid those who aid his cause; for verily God is full of strength, exalted in might, and able to enforce his will. [Koranic verses]

Be united and do not allow any traitor or people with weak spirits to join your ranks. Censure the capitulationists and defeatists, force them to abide by your hopes and aspirations, and block the road between them and the enemy. Let the demonstrations and mass rallies take to the streets. Engage with the soldiers and the herds of settlers. Let the heroes pursue the settlers and turn their settlements into jails and let them shed the blood of the rancorous Zionists in the streets of the settlements.

We, in Hamas, call for the following:

1. Friday 4 March: We urge our kinsfolk and beloved ones in Hebron to defy the occupation authorities and to perform the Friday prayer in the Holy Ibrahimi Mosque. We also urge them to go out in a massive rally after the prayer to deafen the enemy with the cries of Allahu Akbar and throw stones and Molotov cocktails on their cars.

2. Friday 4 March: We call on our people to go out in massive rallies after the Friday prayer from all mosques in Palestine to cry Allahu Akbar, denounce the ugly crime, and call on the PLO and the Arab states to withdraw from the negotiations.

3. From 5 to 7 March, three days for escalating the confrontations and the qualitative operations against the occupation soldiers and the herds of settlers.

4. Celebrating the al-Qadr Night on 27 Ramadan [9 March] in mosques, and to pray to God to grant us victory and defeat the occupiers. We also call for crying Allah Akbar in loudspeakers from the rooftops of buildings.

5. Observing a day of general strike on 9 March on the start of the intifadah's 76th month to denounce the signing of the treacherous Cairo security agreement.

6. On 11 March, the last Friday in Ramadan, we urge all our people to travel to holy Jerusalem to perform the Friday prayer at the al-Aqsa Mosque. We urge them to defy the occupation authorities and the siege and curfew, and to perform the prayer, even on the walls of the al-Aqsa Mosque if necessary.

7. On 'Id al-Fitr day, we urge the people to perform the 'Id prayer outside mosques in open yards, in accordance with the Prophet's teachings. We also urge them to visit the families of the martyrs, wounded, and detainees and the patients, and to help the poor and the needy.

8. On 14 March, we call for staging mass rallies, to be attended in particular by the families of the martyrs, wounded, and detainees. We also urge the demonstrations to proceed to the homes of the members of the negotiating team to urge them to withdraw completely from the negotiations and to join the resistance against occupation.

Allah Akbar. Victory to our mujahid people.

Hamas Rejects 'Hollow' 'Arafat Coordination Appeal

JN0503093394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 94 p 2

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on Friday [4 March] described as hollow a call by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to join hands in his campaign to negotiate the status of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories with Israel and ensure the protection of the Palestinians living there.

" 'Arafat's call is simple theatrics with no substance," said Ibrahim Ghawshah, the Amman-based spokesman for Hamas. "He is trying to cicumvent Hamas' demand for shelving the so-called peace talks with Israel," Mr. Ghawshah told the JORDAN TIMES.

Mr. Ghawshah was referring to a Feb. 28 letter from Mr. 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to Musa Abu Marzuk, head of the political department of Hamas.

The PLO leader's letter, which came in response to a Hamas message calling on him to abandon the peace talks in the wake of the Feb. 25 Massacre of Muslim worshippers by one or more Jewish settlers at a Hebron mosque, "did not touch the essence of Hamas' position," Mr. Ghawshah said.

Furthermore, by sending an envoy to Washington in response to a call by U.S. President Bill Clinton on Arabs and Israelis to resume the peace talks, Mr. 'Arafat "has reaffirmed that he has no intention of moving from the course of surrender he has adopted," Mr. Ghawshah said.

In a Feb. 28 open appeal to the rank of file of Fatah, the mainstream PLO group founded by Mr. 'Arafat, Hamas said: "We appeal to our brothers in Fatah to join hands and escalate the Intifadah and holy war against the enemy."

"The (Hebron massacre) in which hundreds of our people died confirms the righteousness of resistance and armed struggle, and exposes the Zionists' claims that they wish to coexist in peace with our people," it said.

In his message to Hamas, Mr. 'Arafat said: "It is the hour of unity and solidarity and uniting ranks and not differences and divisions."

"This unity is most needed when we are fighting one of our fiercest battles to find a radical and comprehensive solution to the settlements and the disarming of settlers and securing international protection for our people," he wrote.

According to Mr. Ghawshah, "this is not a language of reconciliation as we had proposed. We wanted 'Arafat to abandon the negotiations with Israel and return to armed struggle to liberate our lands."

Mr. Ghawshah said Mr. 'Arafat "is ignoring the streets of Amman, Damascus, Cairo and the occupied territories which have erupted in protest against negotiations with Israel."

"Arafat no longer represents the Palestinian people," he added.

Hamas, which is locked in a running battle with Mr. 'Arafat's Fatah for leadership of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories, rules out any dealings with Israel and propagates jihad (holy war) as the means to achieve liberation.

The group has vowed to step up armed attacks atgainst Israelis and, in a Feb. 25 statement, singled out settlers as potential targets for revenge attacks following the Hebron massacre.

"We will not let up our resistance against Israel until the lands are totally liberated," Mr. Ghawshah vowed Friday.

He said a group of 10 Palestinian groups in an alliance based in Damascus would meet after 'id al-Fitr "to concentrate on our further course of action" to undermine the peace process.

The coalition, known as the Alliance of Palestinian Forces, "was preoccupied with internal affairs so far," Mr. Ghawshah said. "Now we can turn our full attention to activities in the occupied territories."

He was referring to the formation of a leadership council for the allaince. After several months of deliberations, the council was formed in January, with each of the 10 factions nominating two members each to the body. All secretary generals of the groups plus members are now members of the council. The only exception is the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), whose secretary-general, George Habash, did not join the council because of ill-health and nominated his deputy.

For the first time after the Sept. 13 Israeli-PLO accord was signed, Hamas has threatened Palestinians from the occupied territories who are members of the delegation negotiating peace with Israel.

"We demand that the Oslo team announce their immediate withdrawal from the negotiations with Israel," the group said in an open letter addressed to the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The reference to Oslo was to the site where Isaeli and PLO negotitors worked out in secret the autonomy accord which was formally signed in Washington in September.

"We will not allow a handful of us (Palestinians) to continue negotiations with those murderers at the expenses of the Palestinian people."

Hamas Said Against UN Forces for West Bank, Gaza

NC0503191494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Report on telephone interview with Islamic Hamas Movement spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by correspondent Muhammad Tishkar in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate. The Palestinian Islamic Hamas Movement has announced that it rejects the dispatch of UN forces to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in order to protect the Palestinians. Hamas Movement spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah said in a telephone interview that this plan is designed to circumvent the basic problem, which is the presence of the Zionist occupation and the Zionist settlers on Palestinian territory. He affirmed that the PLO's purpose in making this suggestion is to attempt to tone down the escalating opposition among the Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine to enable the organization to resume its negotiations with the Zionist occupation. Ghawshah noted that the dispatch of UN observers will not ensure protection for the Palestinian people. Even if the UN Security Council decides to send armed forces to protect the Palestinians, he said, these forces will not be able to provide such protection. Proof of this is that thousands of UN armed forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina could not prevent massacres there. [passage omitted]

Hamas Denies Report on Halt to Retaliation

JN0603210494 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 6-7 Mar 94 p 1

[Letter to AKHIR KHABAR from "the Hamas Movement;" place and date not given]

[Text] Editor-in-chief of AKHIR KHABAR:

Peace be upon you. Your newspaper published a front-page report on 5 March headlined "Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] Orders Not To Retaliate" which says that sources close to the Hamas Movement told you that the Palestinian leadership hopes Hamas will not carry out any military operations at present, and that Hamas has halfheartedly responded to this request.

We emphasize that this report is baseless and that all information contained in this report is a total fabrication.

No contacts have taken place between our movement and the Palestinian leadership on retaliation for the Hebron massacre. Our movement's policy is clear and open. It calls for strong and decisive retaliation against the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and revenge for the martyrs' blood.

Our position has always rejected the Oslo and Cairo agreements, and this fully conflicts with the published report.

While we wish that you would check such information through contacting the known Hamas representatives in the future, we hope that you will publish this clarification in the same place in which that report was published. [no signature as published]

Intifadah Leadership's 'Vengeance Call' Reported

JN0503192694 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, 5 Mar (SANA)—The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] has stressed that it will escalate the struggle with all its resources and energies. It also stressed it will entrench all forms of struggle against the Zionist machine of suppression and the Zionist settlers and emphasized need for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement entitled "The Vengeance Call" distributed here today, UNLI said the Holy Ibrahimi Mosque crime, which was committed by the Israeli occupation authorities, reveal the ugly criminal face of these authorities and the true Israeli objectives; namely to murder our people, to empty our land of its inhabitants, and to settle the Zionist settlers in their place. The crime also reveals the falsity of the Zionist allegations, which keep talking about peace.

In its call, UNLI demands the United Nations, particularly the UN Security Council, to shoulder its responsibility to protect our unarmed people and provide real protection for them so the world organization can prove its credibility.

UNLI urges the international and regional organizations and the European peoples who support human rights to work on fulfilling their role toward our unarmed people and their right to live in freedom, dignity, and security on their land.

It also urges our people in the diaspora camps to continue the solidarity activities in the face of the Zionist killers. It also hails the decision made by Fatah Hawks [group in the occupied territories] and Fatah militants to resume armed action and struggle against the occupation troops and end the so-called truce.

UNLI also calls for a plan to activate the work of the militant coordination committees in the field, which should group all militant forces and figures in the homeland, and to continue and escalate all forms of struggle throughout the entire homeland.

Jihad Leader on 'Vengeful' Actions Against Zionists

LD0503165194 Tehran IRNA in English 1544 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Palestine Islamic jihad movement's secretary-general, Fathi Shaqaqi said here Saturday [6 March] that the Zionists will see a chain of

vengeful operations soon in retaliation for the last Friday's massacre of Muslim worshippers at Ibrahimi mosque in al-Khalil.

Speaking to IRNA, he said the bloodbath in al-Khalil [Hebron] was a pre-designed plot carried out by the Qods occupier forces.

Shaqaqi said the Zionists were dissatisfied with the active presence of Palestinian Muslims at Prophet Ibrahim's (peace be upon him) mosque. They committed the horrible crime to strengthen their own presence in al-Khalil which houses 27 Jewish settlements, he said.

He brushed aside the Zionist claim that the crime may have been carried by an individual and said the people who were present at the scene said that some militarymen opened fire on the crowd in the mosque.

Elsewhere on reflection of the crime and its impact on the world, Shaqaqi said the shameful crime made Russia call, for the first time in the recent year, for international support for the Palestinian people living in the occupied lands.

Egypt

MENA Previews Upcoming Mubarak, Arafat Talks

Official Comments

NC0403155194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo within the next 48 hours for a visit to Egypt during the visit, he will hold urgent consultations with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron.

'Arafat will meet with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs. He and the Egyptian officials will discuss ways to achieve the Palestinian demands that the PLO has set as conditions for the resumption of peace talks with Israel. The PLO suspended its participation in these talks because of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal said Egypt—President Mubarak, the government, and the great people—has been and will remain the main supporter of the Arab and Palestinian people.

In a statement to MENA, he added that the growing support of the Egyptian and Arab nations for the condition of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories following the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre confirms Egypt's continuing, pioneering role in maintaining pan-Arab security.

Musa Meets 'Arafat Upon Arrival

NC0603164494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1638 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this evening. He is due to hold talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and make a complete assessment of the peace process and the latest developments following the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received 'Arafat upon his arrival.

'Arafat, Mubarak Talks Begin

NC0603181794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Talks between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat began at the presidential office this evening. Members of the Egyptian and Palestinian sides attended.

The two sides reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian problem in light of recent events in the area, particularly the massacre in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

The Egyptian side to the talks consists of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's Office for Political Affairs. The Palestinian side includes PLO Executive Committee member Jamal Surani, Palestine Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Foreign Minister Comments

NC0603205894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the impact of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque's incident on the peace process.

In a statement following the conclusion of the Mubarak-'Arafat talks this evening, Musa said the two presidents also discussed the issues of settlements and Palestinian security in the occupied territories.

Musa said the security issue concerns not only the Israelis but both the Arabs and Israelis. Therefore, from now on we cannot speak about Israeli security without talking about Palestinian security on an equal footing.

Musa explained that the demonstrations that were staged in Jerusalem today to protest the al-Ibrahimi Mosque incident supported peace. They definitely encourage and give the impression that forces desiring peace from the Palestinian and Israeli sides can play a role in encouraging an agreement.

Musa said: We have never said that all Israelis are settlers. But we have spoken about these extremist and aggressive gunmen who commit crimes against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. This is why we have spoken about disarming the outlaw elements in some organizations.

Asked if the Palestinians insist that the UN Security Council issue a resolution providing protection for the Palestinian people, Musa said the Security Council resolution should refer to the security and protection of the Palestinians. Moreover, the Israeli Government is duty-bound to take measures to protect the Palestinians from the settlers' attacks and the terrorist organizations inside the settlements.

On whether Israel is prepared to accept the presence of international observers in the occupied territories, Musa said there is a basis for this in the Declaration of Principles, in which Israel accepted a foreign presence between them and the Palestinians. This indicates that this idea is not ruled out. However, what is being discussed now at the Security Council is the protection of

the Palestinians in the rest of the occupied territories, that is in the West Bank as well.

Musa added that we are speaking about a framework during the next two weeks envisaging the disarming of the settlements, protecting the Palestinians, and disbanding the terrorist organizations. There must be decisive Israeli measures because, under international law, Israel is responsible for the territories under its military occupation.

Asked about the statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher following his meeting with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and whether these statements indicate a U.S. conviction for the need to provide protection for the Palestinians, Musa expressed his appreciation of the stands of the United States and Europe and of their awareness of these considerations. He stressed that there is a worldwide understanding of this issue.

On the date of the resumption of the Israeli-Palestinian talks, Musa said setting a date is not being discussed now although the negotiating track still exists.

Asked if the al-Ibrahimi Mosque incident will make it difficult to convince the Arab people to continue the peace process, Musa said that the crime that was committed in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque provoked Arab people everywhere, including the Egyptian people and Government. We are all together in this and are angry over what happened.

'Arafat Adviser Arrives, Comments

NC0603214294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, arrived in Cairo tonight after a tour of the United States, Britain, and Norway.

Upon his arrival, Sha'th said he will brief President 'Arafat on the outcome of his tour, which focused on how to respond to the Palestinian people's need for security following the criminal al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron. He expressed the belief that the most important outcome of his tour was the agreement of the U.S., British, and Norwegian Governments that providing security for the Palestinians is a top priority before the peace process can be resumed. The three governments also believe that the Palestinian demand is just and must be met.

Dr. Sha'th said that British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd expressed his country's full consent to the presence of UN forces in the occupied territories and British participation in them. The Norwegian foreign minister explained that his country has issued orders to the Norwegian Armed Forces and Norwegian planes are ready to take off immediately once a resolution is issued in this respect.

Dr. Sha'th said the Americans have declared their agreement in principle but want time to study the measures and discuss the subject with Israel.

Dr. Sha'th explained that in principle the three parties agree on the need to restrain the terrorist settlers and prevent the Israelis from carrying weapons in Palestinian towns and villages. They also agree on other measures to reduce the violence by the Israeli army, which after the massacre killed people in numbers nearly equal to those in the massacre.

Dr. Sha'th said that the three parties affirmed the need to return to the talks quickly so that the Israeli withdrawal can take place before 13 April.

Dr. Sha'th stressed that Egypt will remain a full partner in the talks, whether they are held in Cairo or Washington. He noted that it is especially significant that he started his tour in Egypt and returned at the end.

Musa, 'Arafat Hold News Conference

NC0703090494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a press conference at the conclusion of their two-hour talks last evening.

'Arafat opened the conference by saying: I extend my heartfelt thanks to President Husni Mubarak, who is standing firmly and strongly with the Palestinian people, their cause, and their sanctities.

'Arafat expressed his appreciation of the firm stance Egypt has taken with the Palestinian people vis-a-vis the heinous massacre in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque. I have asked President Mubarak to make efforts with all the parties concerned in the UN Security Council to follow up on this matter, he said, adding: I discussed this matter with Minister 'Amr Musa.

On resuming the peace negotiations, 'Arafat said: We cannot talk about negotiations until we see what the situation will be like at the Security Council and until we see the resolution it will adopt. We insist on full condemnation of this heinous crime, international protection for our people, and disarming settlement inhabitants, he stressed.

'Arafat emphasized the need for protecting the Palestinian people, emphasizing that withdrawing settlers from Hebron is essential because these settlements are dangerous. He added that the Israeli Government must take effective and swift measures to control the settlers, because this is its responsibility.

Answering a question on the outcome of the talks his adviser, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, held in the United States, 'Arafat said: We hope the United States will take a clear-cut stance to urge the Security Council to issue a

resolution—this is very important for the occupied territories, particularly Jerusalem—to disarm settlers and provide international protection for the Palestinians.

'Arafat added that the most important thing is to determine the party that will take charge of protecting Palestinians, because we have an army [as received] to protect the Palestinians from these settlers.

'Arafat affirmed that units of the Israeli Army were involved in the massacre in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa remarked that the situation is too serious to be addressed in a sentimental manner. The matter needs specific measures, he emphasized.

The foreign minister underlined the need for the UN Security Council to issue a resolution and enforce certain measures to protect the Palestinians against aggression by the Israeli settlers.

Speaking about the minimum Palestinian demands, Musa said that President 'Arafat has already stated this clearly: a UN Security Council resolution and certain measures to guarantee protection for the Palestinians and their safety. The settlements cannot be left the way they are now because this will lead to a repetition of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque incident, Musa said, hoping the Security Council will adopt a resolution as soon as possible.

The UN Security Council resolution must involve the minimum Palestinian demands that are supported by the Arab states and the international community, he stressed. We are very upset at the delay in issuing a resolution because the Hebron incident cannot pass without taking specific measures to avert a recurrence and in the meantime protect the Palestinians in accordance with the international resolutions that should be respected, he emphasized.

The foreign minister reiterated that all are acting to issue a resolution and enforce certain measures to protect the Palestinians. We have expressed our regrets and our denunciation of what happened in Hebron, he said, adding that the issue of Palestinian protection and settlers must be taken into consideration.

Musa pointed out that as an occupying force, Israel is fully responsible for protecting the Palestinians according to the 4th Geneva agreement. He said that the West Bank and Gaza are under Israeli occupation, according to UN Security Council Resolution 242.

'Arafat Meets French President's Envoy

NC0703123394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has received French President Francois Mitterrand's adviser, Bruno Dulain [name and title as received], at his residence in Cairo.

Palestinian sources in Cairo told MENA that during the meeting they discussed the obstacles hindering the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks in light of the massacre the Israeli settlers committed against the Palestinian worshipers in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and the world reaction to it.

Palestinian Ambassador Sa'id Kamal attended the meeting, which was held yesterday evening.

'Arafat Departs

NC0703133794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1314 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this afternoon following a one-day visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

He also met during this visit with Bruno Dulain, French President Francois Mitterrand's adviser [name and title as received], and Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister and current European Union chairman.

Mubarak on Politics, Regional Security, Other Issues

NC0603111194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 6 Mar 94

["Text" of interview with President Husni Mubarak by an unidentified AL-QABAS reporter on 7 March; place not given—opening paragraphs are MENA introduction]

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressd the importance of finding a way to guarantee the security of Palestinians in the occupied territories. He expressed his deep regret and sadness over the Hebron Mosque massacre of Palestinians at prayer. He stressed the importance of continuing the peace process and denying extremists the opportunity to destroy the negotiations. In a comprehensive interview with Kuwait's AL-QABAS' Monday edition, President Mubarak said that Egypt has consistently supported the Palestinians, noting that it backs the Palestinian request to disarm the settlers.

President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt's view of the area's future in light of the plans being proposed, such as the "Middle Eastern Market," is that there is a need for cooperation among all the countries of the region. He said that if there is cooperation among the region's countries, it would benefit all of them; it is unreasonable that one party should benefit from such a market. He noted that the world currently is being run by mutual interests and not by emotion and that peoples currently look for what secures a means of living. He said that Arabs need to trust their potential and that they are capable of enhancing cooperation with any party through coordination among themselves in their common interest.

Discussing the negotiations on the Syrian track, President Mubarak said that Egypt is always prepared to cooperate with all parties to facilitate the negotiating process, noting that the Syrian brothers have the capability and potential to negotiate.

Regarding the Damascus Declaration, President Mubarak said that Egypt's relations with the Gulf countries are excellent with or without the declaration. He said that Egypt will stand by the Gulf countries if they need help whether the declaration exists or not.

On relations with Iran, President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt is prepared to establish good relations with all countries of the world if they are based on good intentions and respect for the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of others. He reviewed Egypt's efforts before and after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its impact on Arab relations. He said that Egypt always calls for respecting international legitimacy.

Discussing the domestic situation in Egypt, President Mubarak said that he gives priority to the economic reform program, noting that a great deal has been achieved. He noted that the terrorist groups are trying to stop the economic reform process by striking at the country's stability but that they have not and will not succeed. He noted that certain information media organizations, notably Western ones, are trying to exaggerate the incidents that occur in Egypt. He asserted that the security agencies in Egypt are strong and capable of uncovering and hunting down perpetrators of terrorist acts and referring them to courts. He stressed that no one will escape justice. He said that the Egyptian people and their institutions are capable of traversing this stage and achieving stability.

Following is the text of the interview:

[AL-QABAS] It seems to me that we must begin with the painful Palestinian developments. Where are we heading? How do you evaluate Arab reactions to the limited Israeli measures after the Hebron killings? What effect will moving the Palestinian-Israeli talks to Washington have?

[Mubarak] I would like to say that the incident was really sad, a shock beyond belief. It is true that there are extremists all over the world, but I believe Israel can control this kind of extremism. What is worse, the incident took place in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque during prayers and in the holy month of Ramadan. This act, therefore, is unimaginable. But extremists can do any thing because they have no principles or values. Some say that the killer (Goldstein) could not do it individually, and that he had accomplices. I cannot be sure, but I hear things here and there. In the final analysis, it is a dirty attack that might have been intended to hinder the peace process. If we respond by hindering the peace process, both sides will lose a great deal.

I believe Israel must take strict measures to protect the Palestinians. At the same time, I tell the Palestinian people that we must carry on with the peace process; we will face many obstacles because many groups on both sides do not want the peace process to move ahead.

[AL-QABAS] Do you believe, Mr. President, that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is capable of defending and implementing the Cairo Agreement, or is there a need to amend it? If amendment is needed, how can it be done?

[Mubarak] I believe that there should be no postponement of the peace talks. Opportunity comes only once, and it is now available. 'Arafat is in a stronger position now and I believe that he should not postpone the negotiations, but continue the process. Who knows what will happen if he postpones the talks? Some Palestinian group may carry out an act of revenge and things will move in a vicious circle. Now the Palestinians are the victims. If an extremist Palestinian group carries out some operation, the position of the Israelis will grow stronger. And, because they have a more powerful media and other capabilities, we will lose. This is my personal opinion.

[AL-QABAS] So, what should Israel do to put things back on the right course?

[Mubarak] I do not want to go into the details of what Israel needs to do. I am talking in general. First, strict measures must be taken against those who contributed to the attack. Second, we must find a way to protect the Palestinians from the attacks that may be perpetrated by extremist groups while the peace negotiations are in progress.

[AL-QABAS] The Egyptian position is clear, Mr. President. You are demanding that the Israeli settlers be disarmed.

[Mubarak] This is a Palestinian demand, and we support it and demand other measures. What is important is to secure the Palestinians and the peace process. If things are left uncontrolled, then attacks and counterattacks will take place daily; we will enter a vicious circle and we will not reach a solution. Now we have a chance for a peace process, and no one knows what will happen later.

[AL-QABAS] Mr. President, are you still trying to facilitate the negotiations on the Syrian track? How far ahead did the Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton push things?

[Mubarak] Our brothers in Syria have the capability for negotiations. When we are asked to facilitate things or bring viewpoints closer, we do not hesitate. But we do not impose ourselves on anyone: the Syrians, the Palestinians, or any other party. Anyone asking for our help tells us exactly what he wants and we do not hesitate. But we do not act automatically. We discuss the request, assess the possibilities, and then try to help through contacts with either Israel or the United States.

[AL-QABAS] Mr. President, how does Egypt see the region's future in light of plans that are being proposed, such as the Middle Eastern market? What is your stance on this particular plan?

[Mubarak] The Middle Eastern market was an idea proposed by someone. It does not mean that we should concentrate on it and put everything else aside. They have been talking about a Middle Eastern market since 1983. I believe that it was Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who proposed it in 1982 or 1983. He has some specific ideas, but should we deal with them before the peace process? I do not think so.

[AL-QABAS] This Middle Eastern market initiative came from them. Why is our role as Arabs always limited to receiving initiatives? Why don't we came out with initiatives?

[Mubarak] Let me tell you that we do not receive initiatives. Egypt was the first country to take the peace process initiative. How then can it be said that Egypt is at the receiving end of initiatives? We surprise the world with our initiatives. France and Germany were very bitter enemies, but when the issue concerns peoples and public interest, then I cooperate with anyone whoever he is, even if he is a genie. We take the people and economic interests into account. Everyone wants what is best for his people. If I believe that I have an interest in such type of cooperation, then I will not hesitate. Take the countries that had bitter enmity between them and you see that there is cooperation between them now. I do not say that there are friendly relations between Germany and France but mutual economic interests.

If I have to cooperate strategically with Israel or anyone else, then it is because I have an interest. Of course, they too have interests. We, the Arabs, have interests too. The world is motivated by mutual interests and not by emotions. People are now looking for whatever ensures their livelihood and we want to raise our peoples' standards of living. If there is cooperation, it means that the benefit has to be mutual. It is not reasonable to have one side only benefiting and not the other. Let us see, for example, what was said about Egypt when it established relations with Israel. It was said that Israel would swallow Egypt economically. Has this happened? Almost 13 years have passed since then, but has Egypt been drowned "as some are claiming" by Israeli goods? They are the ones buying from us.

Why are we, the Arabs, trying to belittle our capabilities? We must be confident that we are capable of cooperating with any party as long as we are coordinating together, taking care of our interests, and operating within the framework of common interests.

[AL-QABAS] Mr. President, there is the problem of relations with Iran and Turkey. Do you believe that they can be brought together with the Arabs in a regional framework, especially as these two countries have common interests, civilizations, and history with the Arab world?

[Mubarak] The Arab world is bound by many ties based on language, culture, and religion. This does not mean that I am excluding Turkey or anyone else. We have very good relations with Turkey in particular. The Arab countries have good relations with Turkey. If you are talking about a regional framework, I do not want to talk about alliances now. It is still too early to talk about alliances.

As for Iran, our relations with it in the past were good. I made numerous attempts to cooperate with Iran, but it says one thing and does the opposite. The last time Iranian officials contacted us, "some time ago," they talked about reopening offices and a consulate. I needed some time to think before I could agree. They had a charge d'affairs here, who did certain things, made contacts, travelled around the country, and spent money; despite this, I agreed after long consideration. They then said that it was time to exchange ambassadors. I was cautious about this for a long time and after approximately a year and a half I said that I agreed in principle. They asked that we name the ambassador. The next day, I heard about a problem in Iran between certain extremists and 'Ali Akbar Velayati. They asked him if he was going to open an embassy in Egypt. He said no and that he was only opening a cultural office. I told them thank you but we do not need a cultural office. This shows that they have domestic differences.

I am prepared for cooperation with Iran if its intentions are good and if there is a respect for the principle of nonintervention in domestic affairs. For our part, we do not interfere in Iran's domestic affairs. Should Iran try to interfere in our domestic affairs, we will reject this. It is easy for Iranian officials to say that we interfere in Iran's domestic affairs, but we do not do that because it is inconsistent with our values.

If any country imagines that it can play in our country, we can do the same because it is not difficult. However, our principle is not to interfere in the domestic affairs of others. I will not change this principle. If anyone makes a mistake, I will warn him but I will not interfere in domestic affairs. Recruiting people inside other countries is not difficult and the cost is not that high. How much would be spent on recruiting? They are mistaken if they believe that we are not doing this for economic reasons. This is an erroneous belief because all countries have economic problems. All countries are suffering from economic problems, but our principle is not spending but adherence to values.

[AL-QABAS] Mr. President, this topic prompts us to ask a question about what certain people call the problem of Egypt's role in the region, or, rather, they cite as an indication of the crisis the fate of the Damascus Declaration.

[Mubarak] To begin with, the Egyptian role is not in a crisis: Our relations with the Gulf countries are excellent with or without the Damascus Declaration. We will support any Gulf country that requests help or assistance

in any field, including the military one. If any Gulf country requests help, is it conceivable that Egypt would refuse? We are signatory to "the Joint Arab Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement." The first part was not implemented but we will not lag in defending our Arab brothers. The Damascus Declaration changed nothing.

[AL-QABAS] This talk leads us to broach inter-Arab relations and Iraq's future. Do you think that Saddam Husayn's regime can comply with all UN resolutions?

[Mubarak] I had hoped that the Saddam Husayn regime had not done what it did in August 1990. I had not imagined that he would do what he did, particularly because in the first Arab summit that I attended in Rabat, Saddam Husayn spoke in his capacity as the guardian of the eastern gate of the Arab nation. He assailed Syria for having forces in Lebanon and told the Arabs that if Iraq attacks any Arab country, let all Arab armies fight against Iraq.

Whoever thought that someone who saying this would invade a country to destroy it and try to kill its rulers. Who knows whether he would have stopped there or gone further. In his message to Iran, Saddam Husayn said: There are 800 kms of maritime border between me and you. This meant that the United Arab Emirates was included.

Then it became clear that he had a huge nuclear force and apparently was in need of the oil money to develop it and become the third power in the world. The invasion took place. I was shocked and could not believe it. I thought that he would stop at the disputed area and the issue would be over, but he had expansionist ambitions and was planning for them.

I was with him one week earlier and he promised me that nothing would happen. He told me: I will not take any action against Kuwait. He and others denied that this ever happened, but it was clear, in black and white. Saddam Husayn denied that this happened and said that he had witnesses. Who are they? The two delegations, Egyptian and Iraqi, were on the lower floor and Saddam and I were on the upper floor, and they did not attend the meeting we held.

[AL-QABAS] The Arab reader must know these details about what went on when you sat alone with Saddam.

[Mubarak] When I found out that the threats were continuing and the foreign media was talking about troops massing, I said it is better to hasten before a mistake is committed since prevention is better than a cure. I rose at 0600, 0700 due to the time difference, and arrived in Baghdad at 1000. I rode with Saddam in his car. I was accompanied by the foreign and information ministers. We went to a palace that overlooked a lake and went to a hall where we sat alone. I asked him: Do you intend to commit aggression against Kuwait? He said: No. But don't tell them. I said: There is a big clamor. Do you have forces close to them as the news agencies are reporting? He said: No, only the usual forces are present. After a long discussion we agreed on finding a solution at a meeting to be held between an Iraqi delegation and a Kuwaiti one and that the first meeting would be held in Jeddah. I did not propose Cairo but Jeddah with King Fahd. Saddam at first refused. I told him that this was better than having them come to meet with you in Baghdad, after all that you have done and where they would feel powerless, or you going to Kuwait. Both of you, Iraqi and Kuwaiti leaders, come to a third country and prepare the atmosphere at the first meeting for later. Then you will meet one time here and one time in Kuwait. Those were my exact words. After a long discussion, he agreed on holding the first meeting in Jeddah. I still had not informed King Fahd.

At the end of our closed meeting, we went together to the lower floor where we had lunch with the delegations' members. The issue of Kuwait was not broached at all at the table. He kept talking about the hall and other general issues. The meeting ended at this point.

Before I traveled to Kuwait, Tariq 'Aziz made a statement in which he said that the meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Saddam did not concern the Kuwaiti question but bilateral relations.

I read the statement on the plane and asked: Is this statement necessary? When I landed, the Kuwaiti brothers asked me. I said that the matter might be designed to pressure you. I told the amir: Give them some money and silence them. I left the amir after he promised that he would answer me on the question of the meeting. The next day I went to Saudi Arabia, where I met with King Fahd and told him that I had proposed the meetings. He said: Brother, whatever you want. The second day they told me that the meeting would be one of protocol. Saddam was saying that it was a protocol meeting. He spoke to me about a meeting, but then he invaded Kuwait. Then why did you agree with me on a meeting in Jeddah, then in Kuwait, and then in Baghdad? Are you deceiving me? The lack of frankness and deception of people causes dismay and exasperation.

[AL-QABAS] As for us the Kuwaitis, is there anything new regarding Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq? I am not asking as a reporter, but as a man who is related to some of the captives.

[Mubarak] We have tried in many ways, and we are still trying, despite Iraq's denial that it has any Kuwaiti captives.

[AL-QABAS] Can we say that Egyptian-Gulf relations are cool, or that there is a retreat in bilateral contacts in general?

[Mubarak] Who said so? I had a telephone conversation with Shaykh 'Isa (the amir of Bahrain) yesterday, King Fahd telephoned me a week ago, and my brother the amir of Kuwait spoke with me some time ago, and so did Shaykh Zayid. Qatar's foreign minister was here with

me; he left and will return on Saturday. I do not know why the press is talking about cool relations.

Our relations with our brothers in the Gulf and in all Arab countries are not cool. We are a big country in the region; we do not antagonize this one or that one. We support right. Although we and Iraq were together in the Arab Cooperation Council, we stood against Saddam Husayn when he attacked Kuwait. Syria asks us to help its cause, and we do; the Palestinians do not stop asking for support. But we must say that we provide help and support only when we are asked to.

The talks in Cairo are between the Palestinians and the Israelis. When we are asked to help, we speak with the Israelis and the Americans and we reach understandings. We do not impose agreements or things on any party; we only provide our expertise and opinion and use our influence in the right place and at the right time.

[AL-QABAS] After this last question on foreign policy, we will move to domestic issues. What is the latest in Egyptian-Iranian relations? Why is Iran's role in the regional order being neglected? What are the conditions for Iran's participation in this order and the protection of the Gulf?

[Mubarak] There is nothing wrong between Egypt and Iran. We would have wished not to have our relations with Iran, or indeed with any other country, frozen. I am eager for good relations with all countries. Iran is a Gulf state; I extended a hand to it and am ready to cooperate with it provided that no side interferes in the internal affairs of the other. But Iran is trying to interfere.

I remember that Iran slandered us at one point under the slogan of liberating Jerusalem. I tell those who want to liberate Jerusalem to go and do it; Jerusalem cannot be liberated by abusing us. We do not prevent anyone from liberating Jerusalem. But this age no longer accepts mere talk, inflammatory rhetoric, and accusations of others. These are soon exposed, thanks to the communications revolution the world is experiencing. Nothing can be hidden now. Lies soon become exposed in two or three days. I like nothing but realism. If I can do something, I say I can, if I cannot, I say I cannot, even if this does not please others.

Regarding Iran's position, I believe that the Arab countries, notably the Gulf countries, can defend themselves through cooperation. These countries are in no need of Iran or any other country. They can coordinate among themselves. They have huge financial and material resources that enable them to draw up a strong defense plan against any aggression. What counts is good intentions and clear vision. They don't need Iran or even Egypt. However, being an Arab state and member of the Arab League and committed to Arab agreements, Egypt will not hesitate to protect the Gulf when asked to do so. Egypt has no ambitions on the land or anything else possessed by its neighbors.

[AL-QABAS] Mr. President, what is the latest development in the Lockerbie issue?

[Mubarak] The issue is at a standstill. We have done a great deal to resolve it, but it seems that it has calmed down for some time.

[AL-QABAS] Mr. President, we cannot broach the issue of Libya without mentioning the issue of Mansur al-Kikhya. Is there anything new about this humanitarian issue?

[Mubarak] Al-Kikhya used to meet with Libyan visitors from Libya. He would go out with them on his own and travel with them to Alexandria alone. At the Ambassador Hotel, where he was staying, he would go out with various individuals. Also, Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm visited him. Numerous possibilities are conceivable. There is a possibility that they have taken him somewhere. They might have travelled by any passport or by a Libyan passport because he used to deal and travel with them. He is likely to have left with them in a vehicle across the border. Vehicles belonging to the consulate leave Egypt for Libya daily. For your information, the Libyan-Egyptian borders are open and Libyans come and go without passports but with identity cards.

If al-Kikhya himself goes out with them alone and they come to him from Libya daily and go out at night, what can we do? If he was afraid, why would he go out with them for dinners at night? They once accompanied him in a vehicle to Alexandria. There is a quarter in Alexandria called the Hayy al-Magharibah where thousands of Libyans live. Can the Egyptian security agencies watch everything? Summing up, no one can tell for sure where and how al-Kikhya disappeared. We asked the Libyan officials but they denied their connection with his disappearance. You know that there are opposition Libyan figures living in Egypt such as al-Huni, former Prime Minister al-Bakkush, and others. There are other Libyan opponents whom no one can harm because we know them and know their residences and where they go. As for al-Kikhya, we were surprised by his arrival without notice or request to protect him and we were surprised by his disappearance. We have an agreement with the Libyans to respect political refugees. They have not assaulted anyone. Al-Kikhya arrived here in transit and he used to go out here and there.

[AL-QABAS] If we move to the issue of the internal situation in Egypt, the agenda of your third term in office is crowded with the issue of completing the economic reform, promoting the national dialogue, confronting terrorism, and continuing development. Can the priorities be listed, and what has been achieved?

[Mubarak] Economic reform and development are continuing. All that you mentioned is continuing. The development of the infrastructure utilities is continuing. All our efforts are now focused on achieving stability because there can be no development, life, or production without stability and no safety for capital without stability. Some media organizations, especially Western

ones, are exaggerating. Even if a person throws an aerosol can, it is exaggerated. I do not believe that governments are the source of this exaggeration but the press. Anyhow, we are persisting and continuing our course.

One of the groups that committed a terrorist act in front of one of the banks in al-Jizah Square said they did it to revenge "those who died in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque." The majority of these people are not Muslims or anything else.

This is an insult to Islam. Islam has nothing to do with these actions. This is proof that they are far removed from Islam. They are a gang of criminals who get paid from abroad and have been sentenced since the days of President al-Sadat. They get paid from abroad and from others in the region and I know this.

[AL-QABAS] But they are having an effect. They have reached the information minister, the prime minister, and almost reached you, Mr. President, in the rest house.

[Mubarak] I do not have a rest house there. They are confused. They plant something with the aim of hitting just any person. All their attempts had failed and God willed that those perpetrators be exposed so that they can be tried. Egypt's security organs are strong and capable of chasing and exposing all these criminals. Sooner or later, they are apprehended after every crime they commit and no one escapes justice.

[AL-QABAS] What have you done then to confront them? Have you started a dialogue with them?

[Mubarak] We are not opposed to a dialogue. We have spent 11 years in a dialogue with them since the death of al-Sadat. The dialogue gave them the opportunity to establish themselves. But we rejected this when they started to use weapons. Our police are loath to use weapons against citizens regardless of their crimes but they started to shoot after becoming the target of perfidy. Think of it: a policeman began to shoot when the issue became a matter of life or death for him or the terrorist. The police have been forced to defend themselves. But, by God's will, they will not be shaken by this.

I, with all the Egyptians, am capable of getting through this stage and achieving stability. We have full control. A look at history shows us that they were the ones that killed al-Naqrashi Pasha [prime minister under King Faruq] and tried to kill Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. We in Egypt have an accumulated experience of confronting these criminal attempts and must expect them. But this is not limited to Egypt alone. Someone tried to assassinate U.S. President Clinton and another England's Crown Prince Charles. There was also an attempt to assassinate Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Not a single European country has escaped terrorism.

The president expressed surprise that some European countries have accepted some terrorists and granted them political asylum, even though they have been sentenced to death. He said: I warn these countries that they will pay the price sooner or later at the hands of these people.

[AL-QABAS] Such as 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in the United States?

[Mubarak] I do not want to talk about the United States because this caused trouble for us there. The Americans believed I had known the terrorists would do something at the World Trade Center, but I was only giving general warnings before the incident. Be careful, the terrorist groups will play in your country, I would warn. Then, after the attack against the center, they asked if we had prior information. The fact is that we did not have prior information, but our warnings were based on our knowledge of those groups and their methods. Those who receive these terrorists, these fugitives, will deeply regret it.

[AL-QABAS] Mr. President, each phenomenon has its positive as well as its negative sides. What did Egypt lose in its war against terrorism and what did it gain?

[Mubarak] The main negative point was the impact on tourism in Luxor and Aswan, although tourism in Luxor is better now. But we won over the people; they are against any terrorist, and they are active in arresting them. We won the public's solidarity, and this is our biggest strength. We lost some revenue from tourism but we gained in the fact that the people discovered that this terrorism is removed from Islam. They claimed they were working for Islam, but they are only a group of hired people. One of them received 44,000 pounds to assassinate the prime minister.

[AL-QABAS] Where did the money come from?

[Mubarak] It does not come directly from the source; it moves from one place to another and finally comes from Afghanistan. It is most likely that your Iranian neighbors are the ones who pay 44,000 pounds. Instead of distributing the sum among his team, this person bought a private car for 26,000 pounds and gave 10,000 as a down payment for an apartment. He is a plumber who worked and made money, but he was tempted by 44,000 pounds coming in one installment without effort. He paid 5,000 pounds as marriage expenses. So he spent 41,000 pounds altogether. He then put 2,000 pounds in his pocket and distributed the rest among the others. He was arrested the next day after he bought the car. Regrettably, this is an Egyptian who does not appreciate what he is doing. He gets a little money, but he does not appreciate how this affects the country.

[AL-QABAS] According to some press reports, the Egyptian Government has accused some quarters in the Gulf of financing terrorist operations. Is this true?

[Mubarak] Some time ago, there were some nongovernmental societies that helped and paid, but mostly with good intentions. Thy imagined they were donating for charity or for building mosques; they did not know

where the money went and how it was used. I spoke with the governments in the Gulf. They were not paying attention to this, but now they are taking it into consideration.

[AL-QABAS] What, then, is the possibility of cooperation with the moderate Islamic trend, specifically the Muslim Brotherhood?

[Mubarak] The Muslim Brotherhood is an illegal society; there is nothing called Muslims and Muslim brothers. We are all Muslims. Egypt's Constitution does not allow the formation of parties on a religious basis, as this would mean dividing Muslims. If you are not convinced of their ideas, and if you do not join them, they accuse you of blasphemy. The Muslim Brotherhood is a political society. If I approve an Islamic party, I will have to approve a second Islamic party, and a third, perhaps a Christian party, and then a Jewish party may emerge, and then a secular one. The Islamic parties are attacking each other. Do you think they have good relations among each other? We have many examples to the contrary. This will turn the county into a bloody theater. Religion is for God and the homeland is for all. All Muslims are equal; no Muslim is better than the other unless he is more pious and closer to God. Classifying people into Muslim brothers, non-Muslim brothers, and infidels means dividing society.

[AL-QABAS] Mr. President, my last question is: How long will the post of vice president remain vacant?

[Mubarak] I would like to say a very important thing: The Egyptian Constitution determines how power is transferred. If something happens to the president of the republic, the People's Assembly speaker takes over, which is what happened after the death of al-Sadat. If the People's Assembly is nonexistent for any reason, the president of the Higher Constitutional Court takes over as an interim president until the nomination of a new president is completed. The Constitution does not state that I must appoint a vice president, but allows the president to appoint a deputy or deputies, and also allows him to appoint assistants. I have noticed that the presence of a deputy or deputies in the past caused struggles and produced cliques, which divided the country. I do not want this. I am building the country and I have no time for such things. But I will appoint a deputy at the right time, although this is not easy. Consider how many times Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir appointed deputies and later dismissed them. I received a letter from a person telling me not to appoint a deputy so that the presidency will not be inherited; I laughed.

[AL-QABAS] Shall we take it that you will not appoint a deputy in the near future?

[Mubarak] Not in the near future, but the time will come when I appoint one. There were rumors some time ago that I would appoint this person or that person, but I must chose a fully qualified person with integrity who may run for president later. But he may run and fail because the People's Assembly may not nominate him. My selection of a deputy must be accurate. I do not want to appoint one and change him after some time. The vice president, moreover, does not have specific powers. Anyway, the Egyptian Constitution specifies how power is transferred, but the time will come when I appoint a deputy. When? I will not say.

Musa Addresses People's Assembly on Hebron Massacre

NC0503155494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] The People's Assembly held a session this morning under Speaker Ahmad Fathi Surur. The Assembly looked into a number of briefing requests addressed to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

Minister 'Amr Musa then addressed the Assembly, saying that the Hebron massacre has shocked the Egyptian president, Government, and people. Musa pointed out that Egypt was the first country to denounce the massacre, its perpetrators, and the policies that led to it. Egypt, he added, voiced the need to curb Israeli extremism and provide measures for protecting the Palestinians.

The foreign minister said that President Husni Mubarak instructed Egyptian officials to support the Palestinian demand for a UN Security Council session to discuss the massacre. President Mubarak also got in touch with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat several times, stressing his and Egypt's support for the Palestinians at this critical juncture. The two Presidents reviewed the measures that should be taken to guarantee the safety of Palestinians and prevent the settlers from terrorizing them.

Minister Musa said that Egypt's reaction to the massacre was guided by a number of basic principles. Egypt has firmly condemned the massacre. Egypt has stated that responsibility for the massacre is not confined to the perpetrator; that Israel has a clear and specific responsibility for it. Egypt has made it clear that Israeli settlements are illegitimate and that they hamper the peace efforts and undermine tranquility and stability in the occupied territories. The settlements, Egypt believes, conflict with the rights of the Palestinian people in their land as well as with International law. Egypt has called on Israel to take measures to disarm the settlers.

Minister Musa said that the massacre should fortify our resolve to seek a peace settlement that is based on the exchange of land for peace and guarantees the restoration of Palestinian rights.

The foreign minister said that negotiations should continue because Israel must not be left in control of Arab land. He pointed to the unanimous world condemnation of the massacre.

The People's Assembly issued a statement strongly denouncing the barbaric crime, saying that it violates all ethical principles and norms of international law. The statement says that the Israeli Government, being the occupation authority, is responsible for the massacre. It condemns Israel's failure to offer protection to civilians living in the occupied territories in the face of repeated acts of repression and terror. This failure, the statement adds, fuels the spirit of fanaticism and hatred and invites the recurrence of atrocities.

The Assembly referred Foreign Minister Musa's speech and the deputies' comments to an ad hoc parliamentary committee to follow up this matter with the government and keep the Assembly fully briefed on the subject.

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Hebron Incident

NC0403190594 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Mar 94 pp 1, 7

[Statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood on the Hebron incident]

[Text] (But they ever strive to do mischief on earth. And God loveth not those who do mischief.) [Koranic verse]

God says: (Not will they cease fighting you until they turn you back from your faith if they can. [Koranic verse]

While the Zionist enemy is waving the mirage of peace, an officer from the occupation army stormed into the al-Ibrahimi Mosque at dawn today to kill more than 90 unarmed worshipers kneeling in prayer. The treacherous occupation army finished off the rest, thus raising the number of the massacre victims.

The Muslim Brotherhood strongly condemns this ugly criminal incident which shows the perfidious and corrupt nature inherent in the treacherous enemy. They call on the international community to hold an urgent Security Council session to discuss the status of the Palestinians in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem; to place these areas under international supervision; and to send international forces to protect unarmed civilians, women, and children and protect the Islamic and Christian holy places. They also call for holding free elections under neutral international supervision to choose representatives of the Palestinian people in this part of Palestine, which the United Nations admits is under occupation, so as to govern these areas, protect its people, and manage their affairs. They demand that no agreement, which has been drawn without their will and where their opinion has not been legitimately sought, be imposed on this people.

This ugly incident clearly indicates the aggressive nature of the Zionist enemy who has gathered [the Jews] scattered all over the world, usurped the country, and expelled its owners who have become either refugees or displaced persons, or are living under repression and occupation. This is a racist, aggressive, and expansionist entity that does not acknowledge or seek peace and waves the banners of peace only to deceive and to achieve further expansion and superiority.

The Arab and Islamic nation is called upon at this critical time to rally under the banner of Islam (And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves) [Koranic verse], make ready your strength to the utmost to deter aggression and protect the innocent, and not to slip into the false mirage. The continued full boycott of the Zionist enemy is a pressing demand under these circumstances until the full rights of the Arab and Islamic people in the land of Palestine are restored.

O Islamic peoples. The path of Islam is the path to deliverance. Applying God Almighty's shari'ah is the way to retrieve rights and attain sovereignty.

O steadfast Palestinian people: Hold on to your religion. Hold on to your land. Lift up the intifadah all over Palestine. Raise the banner of jihad because it is the only way to attain glory, dignity, independence, and life.

(So lose no heart, nor fall into despair: for ye must gain mastery if ye are true in Faith) (If a wound hath touched you, be sure a similar wound hath touched the others) [Koranic verses]

Know ye that the Islamic nation in general and the Arab one in particular are supporting you with all their might and resources and their hearts are with you. They are waiting for the day when they break the shackles that are preventing them from participating effectively with you in liberating the whole holy land. Tomorrow is not that far away. And God hath full power and control over His affairs; but most among mankind know it not. [Koranic verse]

God is great.

Thanks be to God and God's prayers and peace be with our master Muhammad, his scion, and his companions.

[Signed] Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr.
General Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Paper Blames U.S., Israel for Hebron Incident

NC0203165794 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p 16

[From the "Days" column by Jalal 'Arif: And they are asking us for self-restraint]

[Text] Thus is normalization!

Yes. These are the normal relations as seen by a gang that has usurped our territories and established a state. It knows that it was established through terrorism and that it will continue to exist through terrorism.

Thus is normalization. Palestinians kneeling in prayer to God in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron are killed by

the Israelis' bullets. This picture is an accurate representation of Israeli terrorism and a summing up of the Arab tragedy. Countless Arab revolutionaries and rulers had earlier knelt in Washington seeking protection and offering their obedience and loyalty in hopes that thrones and regimes whose lifespans ended several years ago might continue to exist and in the hope that "leaders" who have gone bankrupt and whose roles have come to an end might find some new role, even if it means serving Israel.

The massacre has now come to expose the truth of everything. It comes in the midst of a big clamor selling illusions of peace and depicting the agreements for total capitulation as historic solutions. The massacre reminds everyone that even total capitulation will not make them show mercy to anyone but merely gives the enemy a wonderful opportunity to practice terrorism. They have not and will not abandon their Zionism. Hence, in their view, the battle will continue until they establish their "promised" kingdom from the Euphrates to the Nile and until they control the water, resources, oil, and land. Everything is permissible for this purpose and nothing outside this design is of any value.

The massacre also reminds those who have forgotten or pretend to have forgotten of the real relationship between Israel and the United States. They are saying that the killer is American, mad, and an Israeli. Regardless of the naivity of the claim that the crime was committed by a single person acting amid the tight security thrown around the site, the truth that should be apparent to us is this: the real criminals in this crime, as in other crimes, are the U.S. and Israeli governments. It is the Israeli government that has been built on terrorism, that constructed the settlements, armed the settlers, gave them money, weapons and protection, and pushed them into practicing terrorism against the Arabs, and then released the killers following nearly farcical trials. It is the U.S. Administration which has supported all this and turned the Jewish gangs into a state and the state into a gang that takes all it wants from the United States—ranging from financial, military, and political support, and even the tools of terrorism such as Goldstein and his ilk used, to atomic power and missiles.

What will happen after the massacre is very well-known—advice for self-restraint and this U.S. call: "Forget what happened, and let us play, or negotiate, so that the peace process will not stop!"

As for self-restraint, we have practiced it, willingly or unwillingly, for many years, and now we see the result. When we hear the Likud leader, who is a candidate for prime minister after Rabin, expressing appreciation that there are many people like Goldstein among the settlers, what can we say to those who shout in our faces saying: We demand the blood of our sons' killers in every case and regardless of the place; anyone allied with them is a traitor; revenge is a must; there are plenty of guns available and also madmen.

As regards the negotiations, everybody knows they will only lead to further concessions. Those who want peace must return to international legitimacy. Let the beginning be a full withdrawal from all occupied territories, removal of all the settlements, and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. Without this, any talk about peace and stability in the region is nothing but a mirage.

The leadership of the organization that was established to liberate Palestine should return to the right course and stop what it began in Oslo. Otherwise, it should leave the scene rather than lead its people to be massacred without resistance.

And the trumpets here that call for turning the cold peace with Israel into a warm one should stop. Let them tell us how peace can be established between the killer and the victim, and how do Israeli bananas taste in their throats when they are stained with the blood of the martyrs [reference to the agriculture minister's admission that Egypt imports bananas from Israel]

As for us, we have no choice but to resist to the end. Therefore, we call upon all those who believe in a just and comprehensive peace and who refuse to surrender to Israeli hegemony to engage in serious work to establish a popular organization that will serve as a spearhead in the prolonged battle against the Zionist presence on the soil of Egypt in all its shapes; an organization opposed to normalization and a Middle East market; an organization that will muster all efforts to support the Palestinian intifadah and mobilize the masses against the Israeli-American conspiracy against our national security and pan-Arab interests.

We have only two choices: To resist despite difficulties in order to impose a just and honorable peace of the strong, or to submit to the status quo, eat Williams bananas, entertain ourselves with what they call "the challenge" [catch phrase in articles by the chief editors of government newspapers that call for a warmer peace with Israel], place our fate in the hands of Israel and the United States, and receive congratulations for self-restraint while turning ourselves into a nation of refugees and martyrs.

Mubarak, Saudi King Discuss Rights of Palestinians

NC0503210394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this evening from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. They exchanged views on a number of issues of interest to the two countries, chief among them reaction to the incident at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque. They also discussed coordinating the two countries' positions and the measures that need to be taken to preserve the rights of Palestinians residing in the occupied territories and ensure their protection and security against future criminal incidents.

Palestinian Envoy: Settlements To Top Agenda

NC0503214294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has stressed the need for the issue of settlements to top the agenda of any Palestinian-Israeli talks in the future. In a statement to our radio, he pointed out that failing to include the question of settlements in the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks will make these talks pointless. He noted that the Palestinian side had called for the need to discuss the question of settlements before the Oslo agreement was signed to ensure protection for the Palestinians.

Dr. 'Urayqat added that the Palestinian people want peace more than any other party. He expressed fears for the possible recurrence of the Israeli massacres against citizens in the occupied Arab territories. He emphasized the need for international protection to ensure that such incidents may not recur in the future.

Daily Urges 'Radical Solution' to Settlements

NC0603080194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has emphasized that the problems resulting from the widening scope of extremist actions in the region requires that their impact on the Middle East peace process be neutralized. This problem requires a radical solution because the developments over the past two years have shown that such a solution is in the best interests of all parties. In an editorial today, the paper says that it is insufficient to disarm the extremists in settlements or even to impose international protection of the Palestinians as a temporary measure until the issue of settlements has been resolved, noting that a basic solution lies in deporting the settlers and extremists from the occupied land.

AL-AHRAM states that the Israeli views of keeping the settlements in the occupied territories have become old-fashioned given the new realities of Jewish extremism. The paper says that certain facts about Jewish extremism that emerged after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre showed that there are training camps and command posts that extend to the United States. In addition, these realities demonstrated the American Jews' support for the Jewish extremists in Israel and inside the occupied territories, a fact that has made the U.S. Administration express its concern.

Cabinet Report Views 1993 Economic Performance

NC0403115794 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 26 Feb-2 Mar 94 p 4

[Report by Muna Qasim: "The Monthly Report for February Issued by the Cabinet's Information and Decision Support Center Paints a Vivid Picture of the Performance of the Egyptian Economy in 1993"]

[Text] The February issue of the Egyptian Monthly Bulletin, a monthly survey of major economic indicators published by the Cabinet's Information and Decision Support Centre (IDSC) summarised the performance of the economy. Egypt's economic performance in 1993 reflects the positive results of two years of ambitious economic reform, during which the national economy faced and overcame many of the challenges which arose in 1991 and 1992.

One of the most notable features of 1993 is the decline of annual inflation rates. According to the IDSC report, the annual average rate of inflation fell from 13.6 per cent in December 1992 to 12.1 per cent in December 1993. These figures are based on the consumer goods index of 1992, when the annual inflation rate reached 9.3 per cent, compared to 20.3 per cent in the previous year.

This is attributable to the declining price indices of a number of groups of consumer goods with the exception of rents, fuel, sports facilities, education and cultural activities.

As part of the economic reform plan, which depends on market mechanisms to achieve economic balance, the pricing structure continued to be adjusted during 1992 and 1993 to reflect the real cost of services and commodities. Last year, measures were applied to rid the state budget of the burden of subsidies and cut the budget deficit. The application of the sales tax was also expanded in scope. The fall of the annual inflation rate to 12.1 per cent in December 1993, however, resulted from the decline in the wholesale index, especially in commodity groups such as foodstuffs, tobacco, and clothing which has offset the effect of increases in the prices of oil and fuel.

Monetary policies applied since 1991 have attained two major goals: foreign exchange rates have been stabilised and interest rates have gradually been cut. The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) in 1993 continued its policy of holding liquidity in check and stabilising exchange rates, which coincided with the downward trend of interest rates on savings in local currency. Exchange rates maintained a relative stability during 1993, with the CBE interfering to buy foreign currencies. The US dollar rate increased from PT [piasters] 333.75 in January 1993 to 336.95 in December 1993. During the course of the year, the Egyptian pound declined by only one per cent against the dollar which suggests that monetary policies designed to eliminate the dollarisation of the economy were successful.

Parallels can also be drawn with the stability of the Egyptian pound against the pound sterling, the German mark, the French franc, the yen and the ECU. The exchange rate of the Egyptian pound against these currencies fluctuated between 1 and 1.5 per cent, which affirms the stability of the foreign rates.

In September, 1993 the number of licensed foreign exchange companies reached 72, with 57 branches and a total capital of LE [Egyptian pounds] 129.385 million.

These companies have accounted for $700 million in net foreign currency revenues. Meanwhile, the CBE stuck to its policy of intervention, to maintain the stability of foreign exchange rates and enhance its foreign currency reserves. Until June 1993 the CBE purchased around $7.1 billion, of which it used $1.9 billion, bringing net purchases to $5.2 billion.

In 1993, monetary policies continued to achieve three main goals: these were to hold the expansion of liquidity in check, to stabilise the rate of exchange of the US dollar and to cut interest rates on savings held in Egyptian pounds, in order to encourage investment and to push forward economic development.

To achieve these goals, the CBE resorted to several measures. These included the cancellation of credit ceilings on loans to the private sector as of October 1992 and on loans to the public sector as of July 1993. There was also a trend towards decreasing the issue of new treasury bills, to strike a balance between the need to curb the state budget deficit and to keep liquidity in the national economy at a suitable level.

The IDSC figures suggest a link between declining average returns on treasury bills and the downward trend in interest rates on bank deposits in the period January 1993 to January 1994. Interest rates on Treasury bills reached 16.2 per cent in January 1993, as opposed to a discount rate of 18.55 per cent. By December 1993 the interest rates on Treasury Bonds reached 14.45 per cent. The significant improvement in the budget deficit, which went down to 3.6 in 1993, has led to a decrease in the issuance of new bills. As a part of the liberalisation of banking services, the minimum interest rate of 12 per cent on three-month deposits made in Egyptian pounds was cancelled in 1993. Taking into consideration the relationship between interest rates on short-term bank deposits and those on short-term treasury bills, interest rates on bank deposits have markedly decreased, to 15.25 per cent in December 1993. Accordingly, the CBE's lending and discount rates went down to 16.58 per cent by the end of 1993 and then dropped further, to 16.25 per cent, at the beginning of 1994. Thus, the CBE has managed to achieve its monetary and credit policies, which implies that the economic reform plan has succeeded in making a positive impact on the performance of the banking system.

As far as Egypt's economic relations with foreign countries are concerned, the balance of payments achieved a surplus in 1993 due to the surplus of the current accounts balance achieved over the past three years. However, the aggregate surplus was less than that achieved in the previous year, due to the growing deficit in the trade balance and the declining surplus of the services balance.

According to the statistics published by IDSC, the balance of trade deficit increased by $7.315 billion in 1993, compared with $6.421 billion in 1992. This increase is attributable to the decline in exports to $3.4 billion; at around $216.2 million less than the previous year, this represents a decrease of some 0.6 per cent. This is the result of exports to Russia and the other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States being cut down by $302.1 million. The decline in exports was felt mainly in chemical products, textiles and agricultural products, while exports of crude oil and oil products increased.

Egypt's imports, meanwhile, increased by $677.7 million or around 6.7 per cent, to reach $10.7 billion. According to some monthly statistics revealed by the IDSC, the balance of payments deficit reached $575.93 million in November 1992, an increase of around 107.8 per cent over the base year 1990.

In October 1993, the deficit reached $470.39 million, an 87.46 per cent increase over the base year, and rose to $516.28 million in November 1993, an increase of around 95.99 per cent over the base year. These figures suggest that the deficit rates are relatively the same, as a result of the exports decline already mentioned.

The fiscal year 1992-93 is the first year of the third five-year socio-economic development plan, which runs from 1992/93 to 1996/97. This third five-year plan focuses on developing the commodity sectors at rates of growth above the rate of population growth, with the aim of improving living standards, as well as striking a balance between the growth of expenditure and production to control prices. In addition to this, the five-year plan aims to promote the tourism industry as a renewable source of foreign currency.

The figures released by the IDSC indicate that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), calculated at 1987 prices, increased by 2.8 per cent in 1992 as against 2.3 per cent in 1991 and 2.5 per cent in 1990.

According to the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics, population growth decreased to 2.1 per cent in 1992/93, compared to 2.3 per cent in the previous fiscal year. This is an encouraging sign, since the growth of GDP, at 2.8 per cent, exceeded population growth. However, more population control is needed at the same time as GDP increases, to minimise the burdens of overpopulation on development and the labour market.

The tourism industry is considered an important source for foreign currency, but IDSC statistics reveal two important points. The first is that the number of nights spent by tourists in Egypt has declined from 21,318,000 in January 1992 to 15,089,000 in January 1993; the second is that tourism revenues have declined from $2,138 million between January and November 1992 to around $1,290 million during the same period in 1993. The same statistics show that the number of tourists went down from 200,000 in December, 1992 to 172,000 in December 1993; the number of nights spent by tourists in Egypt decreased from 1,082,000 in December 1992 to 912,000 in December 1993. The decline took place despite efforts to promote Egypt's tourism industry to offset the negative effects of terrorist acts.

Somali Factions Agree to 'Concept' of 'Action Program'

NC0603102894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—The leaders of the 12 Somali factions have agreed on a unified concept of an action program proposed to settle the Somali problem, after their meetings in Cairo over the past two days. Ali Mahdi Mohamed, leader of the Unified Somali Conference, declared this program today. The program includes the following:

1. Establishing a salvation council of 17 members made up of all 15 groups, including General Mohamad Farah Aidid as well as the leader of the National Somali Movement in the north. Ali Mahdi Mohamed will have a seat on the council according to the Addis Ababa resolutions. The chairmanship of the council will alternate.

2. The first chairman of the Salvation Council will form a provisional government of qualified Somali cadres. He will also complete the formation of the transitional national council, which will end the task of the salvation council.

3. The salvation council will assume the task of enacting legislations, completing the transitional phase, and supervising the building of state institutions.

Consultations will be held with the National Somali Movement and the National Somali Coalition to participate in implementing this program through a delegation that will be sent to meet with General Aidid for this purpose.

Kuwait

Defendent Retracts Confession in Bush Assassination Plot

NC0503200994 Paris AFP in English 1758 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Kuwait City, March 5 (AFP)—A key defendant in the trial of 11 Iraqis and three Kuwaitis accused of trying to assassinate former US President George Bush retracted his confession on Saturday [5 March], pleading not guilty as the trial resumed at Kuwait's state security court.

Wali 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Ghazali, a 36-year-old Iraqi, denied working for the Iraqi intelligence service, reversing his stand when the trial opened on June 5.

At the request of lawyers for the two main defendants—al-Ghazali and another Iraqi, Ra'd 'Abd-al-Amir al-'Assadi—the court adjourned the trial until April 2.

"I did myself wrong by my confessions," said al-Ghazali, denying that the Iraqi intelligence service employed him to assassinate Bush in a suicide mission in Kuwait in April 1993, using a car bomb or explosives strapped to his body.

Earlier al-Ghazali and al-'Assadi, 33, regarded as the ringleader of the group, said the Iraqi authorities had "forced" them to carry out the mission.

Another defendant confessed to having transported explosives into Kuwaiti territory, but said he did not know about any plot to assassinate Bush.

Iraqi Ahmad Jabbar Habib, 21, repeated his denial Saturday.

The other defendants also denied any involvement in the plot or links with Iraq.

The verdict in the trial was due to have been issued at the December session after having already been postponed from the end of October.

The human rights group Amnesty International alleged the trial was unfair, accusing the court of not meeting international standards.

Three defendants have said confessions were extracted by police beatings.

After a US investigation into the plot, Washington launched a cruise missile attack on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad on June 27, 1993. Iraq said six people were killed in the attack.

During the Bush administration U.S.-led multinational coalition forces drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in February 1991, ending their seven-month occupation of the emirate.

Yemen

Salih Addresses Worshipers on Crisis, Developments

JN0403210794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, offered Friday prayers at the Grand Mosque in Sanaa. [passage omitted]

Following Friday prayers, the brother Presidential Council chairman spoke to the worshipers at the mosque and congratulated them for their blessed prayers, and reviewed the developments in the national arena in light of the signing of the document of accord and the current preparations for implementing and translating it on the ground.

He referred to the steps covered since the signing of the document in the Jordanian capital, Amman, and the regrettable ramifications that took place later. He especially emphasized the military field, and the measures adopted to stop these military ramifications, and the success realized by the joint military committee in this field.

He said that following the signing of the document, there was great hope that the crisis was over and that the beginning of a new stage was at hand, that the document would be implemented and that all parties would adhere to it. Regrettably, what happened showed the determination of certain people not to reunite the constitutional establishments to enable these establishments to carry out their duties in implementing the document.

The brother president said: In this address to you, I want to assure you and all the masses of our people that we will make every effort, alongside all unionists and good people, to contain the crisis. Let our people be sure that we will not allow discord and fighting among the sons of our people, we will not allow one drop of Yemeni blood to be shed for the sake of narrow interests, and we will not allow anyone to encroach on the homeland's security and stability.

He said that no one individual, party, or group has the right to maintain a mandate on unity or people, or any part of this people, adding that unity is a safeguard that will never be relinquished whatever the price might be. He said heroic Sanaa, the historical and political capital of the unified Yemeni homeland is a city for all unionists, and is the home for all Yemenis in all parts of the homeland.

He stressed that our people will stand firmly with unity, with democracy, and with the document of accord, and will confront those who sow strife and incite sectarian, racist, or tribal problems. The people will also confront all forces of renegades and secession.

The brother president said: We are concerned that Yemeni blood be spared and that our people be spared the difficulties and our country be spared the destruction. We will seek with all the power we have to build Yemen and avoid all the gloomy pictures it witnessed in the past. With the unity, we closed the files of the past. We will not permit the occurrence of new tragedies in the history of our people and homeland.

Those who speak in a loud voice about a state where law and order prevail should offer us the model they followed for 25 years, in the economic, administrative, and development spheres to find the basic structure for development, and building the state. We do not need to speak more about the model they had offered to the citizens over that period of time. This model is well known to our people, part of whom still suffer from its tragic consequences. We regret to say that such people now seek the recurrence of this model throughout the entire homeland so that our entire Yemeni people will suffer, after already attaining their unity on 22 May 1990. Our people have hoped that this unity will be the dividing line between these dark ages and a new era based on freedom, democracy, justice, respect for human rights, and on real development from which the homeland benefits. We aspire to build a modern Yemeni state, a state where blood, honor, and property will be safeguarded, a state based on law and order, on free economic activities, and on fair competition for achieving what is better. We will not allow any force whatsoever to tamper with the security of the homeland and the tranquility of the citizen.

The brother president added: We want the specter of fear to end and the crisis to disappear for good from the minds of our people. We want our people to live a quiet and safe life far from the crises which some insist on repeating in the homeland's life and which poison the lives of the people. Some appear to have forgotten how to live without these crisis, something to which they have become accustomed during their lives. Our steadfast people in one part of the homeland have paid a prohibitive price for this. They now want all the people throughout the entire homeland to pay the price of this crisis which has been going on for over six months. Our people have suffered from tribulations and have sustained hardships as a result of this crisis.

The brother Presidential Council chairman added: We and all the good people hope to welcome 'Id al-Fir with happiness and joy and with a sense of safety. We are confident that our people, who overcame many challenges through their history, will also pass this test and will maintain their determination to achieve unity, democracy, peace, and progress. [passage omitted]

Salih Accuses 'Southern Rivals' of Conspiracy

JN0603205694 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 6 Mar 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih accused his southern rivals of conspiring to divide the country and vowed to prevent a split at any price.

In a televised speech last night, President Salih said unity was a fact of life and that any thinking of secession is out of the question. He said it will not happen no matter what the price will be.

President Salih indirectly accused Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid's Yemen Socialist Party of heightening military tensions. He said he warned those who insist on this course that they will pay the price.

He said a joint Yemeni-Jordanian and Omani military committee, which also includes the U.S. and French military attaches in Sanaa, was working to end the military tension and for the return of forces to their original bases.

Al-Bid Reportedly Attacks Salih at Committee Session

PM0403160394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari, Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah, and Muhammad 'Allam: "Al-Bid Attacks 'Ali Salih, Warns of Loss of Control"]

[Excerpt] A series of developments yesterday reflected the persisting tension at political and military levels in Yemen, as the General People's Congress [GPC] refused to convene the Yemeni Council of Ministers in Aden, turning down a request by [Prime Minister] Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. And Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, spoke for the second time about his willingness to step down if this is going to serve Yemen, its unity, and its democracy.

Sources in Sanaa have said that Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, vehemently attacked President 'Ali Salih before the Yemeni Political Forces Dialogue Committee, with which he met the day before yesterday in Aden. The sources said that al-Bid accused 'Ali Salih of "planning the military incidents witnessed recently in Abyan Governorate in the south of the country and in the Harf Sufyan area." He also said that " 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was happy with the offensive launched against some refugees in the Harf Sufyan area and with the treacherous ambush set up in Abyan by the al-'Amaliqah Brigade against a small battalion from al-Wahdah Brigade."

Addressing members of the Dialogue Committee, al-Bid said: "I fear that we might lose control. I stopped an integrated military force which was on its way to hit and discipline al-'Amaliqah Brigade. And the central security camp in Aden is under siege, but we are not going to kill them in retaliation for what 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih did in Abyan and Harf Sufyan."

In his meeting with the Dialogue Committee, al-Bid proposed that Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier Mujahid Abu-Shawarib assume all military powers as regards the Armed Forces, in order to ease the severity of the military tension and return matters to their previous status. al-Bid asked Brig. Abu-Shawarib to contact President 'Ali Salih during the meeting to obtain permission to do so.

The sources emphasized that Brig. Abu-Shawarib did indeed contact the president and later told the meeting that 'Ali Salih had refused to give him the authorization. He told him: "How can we breach the authorization document given to the Yemeni-Jordanian-Omani military committee, when its ink has not dried yet? Such talk represents a contradiction in positions, and I do not believe that you would accept that, nor do I believe that it is honorable for us as leadership to do it." So al-Bid said: "Did I not tell you that his intentions are not sincere," pointing out that he knows well the GPC's military strength. And that he knows how many troops that force includes from the GPC, the Reform Grouping, and the Nasirites. He added: "So we believe that our position is the strongest. But our characteristic is that we examine the situation before making a decision."

Concluding, al-Bid said that the al-'Amaliqah forces in Abyan "attacked the party's offices and militias—actions which explode the situation." He renewed his warning about losing control of the military situation if such actions continue.

In Aden, sources close to the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, which convened in the southern governorate of Abyan in the evening of the day before yesterday, said that "the committee's members failed to stop the deterioration in the situation in Abyan—the deterioration which began on 21 March." [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Announces Halt to Media Campaign

JN0703112294 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Mar 94 p 24

[Text] Aden, QNA [Qatari News Agency]—'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and leader of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], has announced a unilateral halt to what he termed vituperations and media campaigns, as of yesterday.

In a message to the Yemeni people, broadcast over Aden Radio last night, al-Bid said the decision was made by the YSP Political Bureau in observance of the citizens' sorrow over the death of former Yemeni President 'Abdallah al-Sallal and out of respect for the last holy days of Ramadan.

The vice president said in this regard: The decision, made under serious circumstances, reflected great sorrow over the death of Field Marshal 'Abdallah al-Sallal and our feelings about this mournful event.

Opposition Parties Call for Civil Disobedience

JN0703072094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Yesterday, in Yemen, four political opposition parties called for the use of civil disobedience to pressure both northern and southern leaders whose differences threaten the unity of the country.

The call came in a statement signed by the National Opposition Grouping [al-takattul al-watani lil mu'aradah], the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the National Forces Federation [ittihad al-quwa al-wataniyah), and the Strugglers of the Yemeni Revolution [Munadili al-thawrah al-yamaniyah. The statement calls on the Armed Forces to disobey orders in order to prevent internecine fighting.

'Popular Resistance' Group Created To Defend Unity

JN0603072294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] A group to defend Yemen's unity was formed in Sanaa yesterday on the initiative of a number of university professors. An informed source said this grouping, which has been called the "Popular Resistance" [al-muqawamah al-sha'biyah], will include hundreds of politicians from all trends, lawyers, doctors, and university professors, in addition to military commanders. The group calls for renouncing violence, rejecting division, and implementing the Amman document signed last month.

The source said the group will work among students and men of religion to organize popular resistance to face the possibility of war in the country.

Last Thursday, Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid called on Yemenis to wage a peaceful struggle to implement the Amman document.

'Progress' in Oil Negotiations With France Noted

JN0503062094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry undersecretary for international relations, is holding talks in Paris, while Oil Ministry Undersecretary Taha Humud is putting the finishing touches on cooperation negotiations between Iraq and the French Total and Elf-Aquitaine companies to develop oil investments in Iraq.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe recently said it is highly likely that Iraq will soon resume its oil exports. A French source said Iraqi-French negotiations on developing oil investments have been conducted on a regular basis in Baghdad. The talks were moved this week to Paris where an Iraqi delegation, led by the Oil Ministry undersecretary, has arrived.

Moving the talks to Paris indicates the extent of the progress made and France's desire to restore relations with Iraq. The visit was made at the invitation of France. This means French diplomacy will act to lift the embargo. The two French oil companies have shown interest because Iraq has the world's second largest oil reserves.

Commenting on this development in Iraqi-French ties, British sources in London said Iraq will likely become, once the embargo is lifted, an arena for competition among French, Italian, German, British, and U.S. companies. Officials from these companies have been frequenting Baghdad for months to win contracts with Iraq, especially in the field of food agriculture and pharmaceutical items not included by the embargo. They are awaiting major deals worth tens of billions of dollars, as was the case in the seventies and eighties, once the embargo is completely lifted.

Even if the embargo is partially lifted, this would constitute progress, since the Iraqi economy has high production capabilities and rich resources.

Anti-Zionism 'Alliance' With Libya, Sudan Proposed

NC0503205694 Paris AFP in English 2002 GMT 5 Mar 94

[All punctuation as received]

[Text] Baghdad, March 5 (AFP)—An Iraqi daily called for an alliance with Libya and Sudan on Saturday [5 March] to oppose "imperialism and Zionism" following the Hebron massacre.

The Babil newspaper, run by President Saddam Husayn's eldest son 'Uday, said it was "desirable for the leaders of Iraq, Libya and Sudan to hold a summit meeting ... and adopt a common stance" to meet the challenges facing Arabs in the wake of the February 25 massacre, when a Jewish settler gunned down dozens of Moslem worshippers.

Such an alliance was "necessary ... due to the complete inertia of the Arab League and its subservience to the wishes of traitors among the Arab leaders."

Babil said "only armed struggle can lead to freedom," and called on "all those concerned about the future of Palestine to declare that the Palestinian autonomy accord died in Hebron."

Arab-Israeli peace talks were suspended after the massacre.

The PLO has demanded that the United Nations guarantee protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories and that Israeli settlers be disarmed.

The newspaper also called on the ruling Baath party to hold a congress of Arab forces to "form an anti-colonialist and anti-Zionist front."

Meanwhile, the official Iraqi news agency INA Saturday expressed the hope that contacts between Iraqi and French officials would help toward the lifting of an international embargo imposed on Baghdad after its troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

"The Franco-Iraqi meetings in Paris, at the invitation of France, indicate that French diplomats will take steps aimed at lifting the embargo," INA said.

A senior Iraqi foreign ministry official, Riyad al-Qaysi, held talks with his French counterparts in Paris Friday.

The meetings were a sign of "France's willingness to resume relations with Iraq," INA said.

Al-Qaysi's visit came less than a week after one by a senior official of Baghdad's oil ministry, as a guest of the French oil companies Total and Elf-Aquitaine.

The companies are negotiating concessions to exploit petroleum deposits in southern Iraq once the UN embargo has been lifted.

Iraqi newspapers said al-Qaysi's talks in Paris were part of a diplomatic drive to get the embargo lifted, and he would also visit China. He went to Russia on February 22.

Under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire conditions the oil embargo may be lifted once Iraq has fulfilled UN demands for the dismantling of its weapons programmes.

Paper Views Change in UK, French Position on Embargo

JN0603095094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA)—The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper says the United States has become virtually isolated in its calls for the continued enforcement of sanctions against Iraq, particularly since it has seen with its own eyes the disintegration of its international coalition.

In an article published today, the paper adds: Despite the fact that the U.S. position on the embargo has remained unchanged, as attested to by the recent report Clinton submitted to the U.S. Congress, there has been a change in the French and British positions on the embargo.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The French position is showing signs of change, as manifested in the Iraqi-French political and oil talks and the statements made by the French foreign minister, in which he said that there is a strong likelihood of Iraq resuming its oil exports shortly.

The paper goes on to say: Despite the fact that the British position on the embargo is still close to the U.S. position, there has been a noticeable watering down of the intransigent anti-Iraq rhetoric used by British officials. As for Russia and the PRC, they are sympathetic to the efforts to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: These indications, coupled with Iraq's cooperation and its implementation of the provisions enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, underscore the need to lift the embargo, because there are no justifications for maintaining it.

The paper concludes by saying: The continuation of the embargo means that Washington is implementing the most dangerous chapter of its grand anti-Iraq conspiracy, and that it is working to stifle Iraq; and this is something the Iraqi people oppose and will never accept.

Regime's 'Sabotaging' Role in Yemen Described

NC0503154894 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1540 GMT 4 Mar 94

["Station Talk"]

[Excerpt] The Iraqi regime is playing a malignant and sabotaging role in deepening the Yemeni crisis and breaking the unity of the Yemeni people. For some time, the Iraqi regime has been interfering in Yemen's internal affairs, particularly after the successful democratic experiment in Yemen. With this experiment, the Yemeni people in both parts of the country opted for unity and coexistence under a single regime to prevent the country from sliding into the cycle of conflicts and crises. By depending on the people's will and by going back to the people, Yemeni unity was achieved.

Naturally, the Baghdad regime does not feel comfortable about the success of any experiment that may smell of democracy and in which the peoples have a decisive say. Thus, the Baghdad regime decided to inflame the Yemeni crisis and steadily sought to undermine Yemeni unity, hoping to gain a foothold there by creating a fragile pro-Iraqi regime in Yemen that would follow in its footsteps and accept whatever Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn imposed on it.

According to Iraqi opposition sources, the Yemeni Socialist Party has expressed concern with the sabotaging role played by the Baghdad regime in the Yemeni crisis. Instead of lending a helping hand to bring the views of the two conflicting parties in Yemen closer, the Iraqi regime is trying hard to deepen their differences by backing one party against the other. Reports indicate that 12 Iraqi pilots have arrived in Sanaa to train and support the northerners' troops. The same reports indicate that during the past two months the Iraqi Embassy in Sanaa was the scene of meetings between military commanders who support Yemeni president 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Iraqi military attache in Sanaa. To further increase tensions in Yemen, some members of the pro-Baghdad Yemeni Ba'th Party kidnapped a number of foreigners some time ago and held them with some of the tribes affiliated with the party. Furthermore, the Baghdad intelligence service in Yemen in the past few years has assassinated several Yemeni political and scientific figures. [passage omitted]

Kurds Seeking Mediation Efforts of Jordan's Husayn

JN0603201194 Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 3 Mar 94 p 9

[Text] Amman—AL-SHURUQ has learned from sources close to the Jordanian Royal Court that an Iraqi Kurdish delegation visited Amman secretly more than a week ago and met with several Jordanian officials.

According to these sources, the delegation gave King Husayn an official request for the king's mediation with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. They asked him to help facilitate the resumption of the Kurdish-Iraqi dialogue on the self-rule negotiations that started in May 1991 with visits to Baghdad by Kurdish leaders Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani. The negotiations came to a halt in July 1992 when the Kurds joined the opposition delegations visiting Western capitals to ask for support to topple the regime in Iraq.

The sources said that the Kurds' need to resume the dialogue with Baghdad appears urgent now with the lack of prospects for the Kurdish plan in northern Iraq. This is mainly due to Iranian and Turkish fears over their domestic situations and the possibilities for division and the redrawing of maps in the region, which has not seen stability for dozens of years. It is also due to indications that the international embargo imposed on Iraq could possibly end next June.

The Jordanian sources say they do not expect King Husayn to respond quickly to the Kurdish desire out of fear of Arab reactions, especially since he is now in the process of normalizing relations with Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Gulf states. He also fears a new failure in his mediations, especially since he has not yet recovered from the failure in his mediation between the parties to the Yemeni crisis.

U.S. Position on Hebron Draft Resolution Noted

JN0403204494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Sabri Hammadi: "Zionist Crime and American Position"]

[Text] The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was another perfect example of the criminal, fascist mentality of the Zionist entity and showed how thirsty the Zionists are for Palestinian blood. The U.S. attitude toward the atrocity, which has claimed 400 casualties, once more exposes America's open and consistent bias toward the usurper Zionist entity, as well as underscoring its abiding willingness to extend political protection to that entity at the United Nations, not to mention the apologies and alibis afforded the Zionist entity by U.S. media

Typical of its approach to the savageries the Zionist entity has committed against the Palestinian Arab people, the United States has, for the past three days, been bending over backwards not only to contain and deflect the angry reactions to the crime and its perpetrators and to underplay the bloodbath and its consequences, but also to shield the Zionist entity from any international measures. The Clinton administration has not limited itself to throwing its full weight behind Tel Aviv; it stands ready to keep the UN Security Council from passing a resolution decreeing protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and demanding that the Zionist entity take immediate measures to curb the illegal practices of the Zionist settlers.

It was entirely predictable that the draft resolution submitted by the nonaligned group at the United Nations should come up against U.S. opposition. Particularly objectionable to the United States is the paragraph stipulating international protection for the Palestinian people. Washington argues that such a resolution would set back the ongoing peace process. Another disagreeable paragraph to the Americans is the one calling on Israel to curb the settlers' scandalous actions against the Palestinian population. Beyond that, the United States has come out against disarming these settlers!

At the end of the day, what the Clinton administration really wants is for the negotiations to resume. As for stemming the flow of Palestinian blood, it could not be bothered. Seen against this backdrop, Clinton's call for the Palestinian-Israeli talks to resume in Washington is a wretched and transparent attempt to whitewash the Zionist crime and shift the attention of the Palestinian, Arab, and world opinion away from the atrocity. From a U.S. perspective, the progress of the talks seems to count for more than Palestinian blood.

In any event, this is not the first time that the United States has acted disgracefully, nor will it be the last. The U.S. attitude now fits in with a pattern of open U.S. partiality to the Zionist enemy. Still fresh in our memory is the crime perpetrated by the Zionists at al-Aqsa Mosque in October, 1990 and how the Bush administration manipulated the Security Council into passing a weak resolution condemning violence in general terms. Will the Clinton administration get the Council to issue a similarly weak resolution with empty expressions of condemnation that have no value in the face of this state-sponsored Zionist terror?!

There is an elementary truth that the imperialists and their allies and agents will not recognize, and that is that the Palestinian people, who have been engaged in a bloody and ceaseless struggle for the past 40-odd years and who have offered huge sacrifices as they stood up to Zionist coercion and occupation, are not about to relent in the battle against terror and repression. The Palestinians will carry on with their heroic fight and make further sacrifices until their right to an independent state on their national soil is recognized.

Editorial Blames 'Degraded' Arab Rulers for Hebron

JN0603182594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Feb 94 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "No to the Massacre, No to Degradation"]

[Text] Had most Arab rulers and officials not degraded themselves, their dignity, and the rights of their nation, the massacre at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron would never have occurred. The Zionist enemy's calculations would have been totally different as well, especially since it is a usurper entity, whose true aims cannot be concealed by claims of security and military superiority while the memory of the glorious battle and al-Husayn missiles is still vivid in our minds.

Unfortunately, many Arab rulers and officials have degraded themselves, Palestine, and Iraq, whom they are now blockading after participating in the aggression against it. They were against Iraq when it was facing Israel alone; a sole warrior knowing no hesitation or compromise over rights despite all the support Israel garnered from the imperialist and neo-imperialist forces.

Here the degradation and the compromises have produced their racist Zionist puss. The Zionist entity has dared to commit a hideous massacre, killing prostrate worshipers in the mosque of Ibrahimi, the grandfather of prophets, at dawn prayer on a Friday in the holy month of Ramadan.

Could there be anything more degrading than this massacre?!!

If the boiling public anger were to react by avenging Arab honor, becoming an anger for Palestine, its people, martyrs, and our holy places, then it is also bound to clash with those governments that pledged to guarantee the security of Israel and the safety of its existence and borders. They used all their political, financial, and military weight to kill the Palestinian revolution, as a weapon and a source of strength. They have also gone a

long way toward sponsoring and encouraging submission and deviation, until some of them joined the U.S. settlement bandwagon, which was started by Bush and Baker and is now continued by Clinton and Christopher.

When everything—the land, the people, the holy places, and the factors of history and geography—becomes negotiable, then even the martyrs' blood is seen by these degraded weaklings as a surmountable problem. For instance, they think it is sufficient to switch the talks from Cairo to Washington, amid theatrical appeals for self-restraint, in order to continue the negotiations so as not to hamper the negotiation process. This is itself a political massacre of the Palestine question.

We wonder, had this crime been committed by someone else, would we have heard the same calm U.S. diplomatic talk? Or would we have witnessed threats, fast UN resolutions, military reinforcements from all direction, pressures, sanctions, and land, air, and sea blockades on all political and economic levels?!

With the Ibrahimi Mosque bloodbath, the world stands face to face with the U.S. sword that threatens world nations, their rights, and honor. Here is the UN Security Council, despite all the martyrs who fell on their national soil at the tombs of the prophets and martyrs razed by Israeli Army bullets as a punishment for their bereavement; here is the Security Council, after quarter of a century of occupation and half a century of usurpation, destitution, and murder, still holding consultations in unofficial sessions to draft a resolution renewing its confidence in the Israeli Government's ability to tackle the situation in a just and wise manner.

In order to throw dust in our eyes, the capitals of domination and oppression have issued verbal condemnations, shed crocodile tears over the victims, and declared their deep concern about the fate of the settlement and the negotiation process!!

Amid this Arab fragmentation and all this degradation and submission to the tyrant and the enemy, amid the absence of international legality and the Arab League's use of the American language rather than the Arabic language, and amid the dwarfing of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization, this massacre has occurred with all its ugliness and implications. It has shown to the people of Palestine, the Arab nation, and all Muslims a glaring picture of their present status and what their future will hold if this weakness, fragmentation, and absence become solidified under agreements that are now being dictated by Washington so that Tel Aviv, with all its power and nuclear weapons, would be free to shed more Arab blood and to occupy our lands and holy places.

What the enemies want must not be our inevitable fate. Here is giant Iraq standing high and proud with its full willpower, honor, and historic leadership; and here are the heroes of the intifadah with all their vigor, filling the land of Palestine with stones, bullets, and martyrs to prove that they are strong and that their resolve knows no despair or fatigue. These heroes disdain every false and crafty condemnation, because they and all honorable Arabs and Muslims know that they have the final say in this epic struggle, whose fire could not be extinguished for 75 years on the land of Palestine. Their epic is Palestine's modern history, which will become more radiant with the blood of the righteous martyrs of the Ibrahimi Mosque.

Immortality and glory to the martyrs.
Glory to the fighting revolutionaries.
Long live Palestine free and Arab.
Long live our glorious Arab nation.
God is great.

U.S. 'Rabid' Media, Diplomatic Campaign Denounced

JN0503094294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Mar (INA)—The AL-'IRAQ newspaper has denounced the rabid, malicious, and tendentious media and diplomatic campaign launched by the Clinton administration against Iraq.

In its editorial today, the paper notes the periodic report sent by the U.S. President on 3 March to Congress. The report was primarily targeted against Iraq. It employed a long series of deliberate false arguments, disregarded facts, and was blindly carried away by Zionist desires.

The paper says the Clinton administration is entertaining a great illusion and falling into the abyss of cheap lies and blatant deception if it thinks that it can succeed through its octopus and diabolical media machine. This machine excels in telling lies and fabricating accusations to influence world public opinion in favor of U.S. stupidities when the question of lifting the embargo is discussed.

AL-'IRAQ further argues that the position of the Clinton administration, reflected in its spiteful report to Congress, reveals to the whole world the extent of the involvement of the U.S. President and his Zionist advisers, such as Tony Lake and Martin Indyk, in a plot to turn the Security Council and the international family against Iraq. They are doing this in the hope of maintaining the savage embargo, after it has lost all its justifications.

The paper asserts that by continuing to antagonize the unyielding Iraqi people, going to extremes to have more unjust resolutions issued, and relentlessly seeking to maintain current resolutions against Iraq, the Clinton administration will only reap failure, humiliation, and hatred.

The paper adds: The criminal Bush wagered on starving the Iraqi people and defeating it eventually through the economic blockade. However, Bush ended up in the trash can of history. The Iraqi people have maintained their steadfastness, worked miracles, and pursued their

reconstruction drive. Bush only reaped disgrace, shame, and eternal damnation. Clinton will reap the same fruits if he continues his losing wager on the Iraqis' endurance and steadfastness.

U.S. Held Responsible for 'Criminal' Embargo

JN0503095194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Mar (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has held U.S. President Bill Clinton responsible for maintaining the criminal embargo against the people of Iraq and closing all doors to questions being strongly raised about the reasons for its continuation after Iraq has fulfilled the obligations spelled out by Security Council resolutions.

In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the U.S. President has asked Congress to continue to support the embargo, citing a series of fabricated stories and lies, which have been worn out by repetition. The U.S. President has even taken a further step by appointing himself a "guardian" over Iraq and its people and poking his nose in its domestic affairs.

The paper notes the extreme frustration the Clinton administration has faced as a result of two connected phenomena in the Arab nation. The first phenomenon is the collapse of two pillars of U.S. policy following the aggression against Iraq, the regimes of Fahd and Husni Mubarak. The second is that Iraq has maintained popular support all over the Arab nation and that Saddam Husayn has continued to be a symbol of pan-Arab honor and adherence to honorable values in the Arab nation and the Islamic world.

The paper asserts that the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and the genius of President Saddam Husayn have changed regional and Arab equations in their favor. They have also defeated attempts by Western-Zionist media to influence the masses of the region and drive them to antagonize Iraq.

Clinton Statements About Country Challenged

JN0703090294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has stressed that U.S. President Bill Clinton realizes well that his statements against Iraq are nothing but unfounded fallacies and lies.

In an article today, the paper adds that UN committees have emphasized that Iraq has fully met its obligations toward the resolutions issued against it, and that this requires that the UN Security Council meet its obligations toward the Iraqi people and prove its credibility to the world through the immediate implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

The paper indicates that having given up his role as the president of a superpower, Clinton has handed the command to the Zionist lobby controlling U.S. policy, thus turning himself into a Zionist advocate at the expense of the U.S. interests and other peoples struggling for advancement.

AL-QADISIYAH explains that U.S. world policy is dominated by arrogant and haughty tendencies and by the logic of force, paying no attention to other peoples' rights. Such a policy, the paper says, must backfire against its makers, leading them to the abyss.

Concluding its article, AL-QADISIYAH says that when Clinton attempts to oppose the progress of a lively people such as the Iraqi people, who are supported by all struggling peoples, or when he threatens other nations with sanctions unless they give up their own interests in favor of U.S. interests, he should realize that the law of life and the logic of evolution say that the future is made by creative, lively peoples who are enriched by experiences and hardened by ordeals.

Paper Chides U.S. Use of Democracy, Human Rights

JN0603110594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH maintains that the U.S. Administration is using democracy and human rights as political cards to damage the interests of world peoples and undermine their abilities to freely make political decisions and pursue independent options.

In an article published today under the headline "Clinton, Ignorance, and Zionist Motives", the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: When they advance arguments grounded in the U.S. concept of human rights and U.S. national security, U.S. officials forget that other world peoples have their own national security to worry about, and that they also have human rights that must be respected.

The paper wonders: Since democracy is rooted in dialogue, how can anybody who professes to be a democrat and a staunch advocate of democracy reject dialogue and wave the big stick in the face of anyone who chooses to hold a dissenting view?

The paper notes the periodic report U.S. President Bill Clinton submitted to Congress. In this report, the paper says, Clinton spoke, thanks to the bad advice offered him by his Zionist advisers, of what he called Iraq's sponsorship of terrorism, and of human rights violations in Iraq. Clinton said Iraqi policy continues to pose threats to U.S. national security and to U.S. foreign policy—something that prompts the United States to support the continued enforcement of the economic sanctions against it.

The paper adds: The U.S. President has deliberately chosen to overlook the fact that there is a UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution passed at Washington's

urging, i.e., Resolution 687, that must be taken into account in this regard. The U.S. President has chosen to forget that Iraq has honored all its commitments toward this resolution, and that, consequently, the UNSC must immediately honor the provisions enshrined in Paragraph 22 of this resolution by lifting the sanctions clamped on Iraq. According to the rules in force, Iraq is entitled to see the embargo lifted. The UNSC must act to lift the sanctions.

The paper goes on to say: Clinton has set fresh terms for lifting the sanctions clamped on Iraq prior to the UNSC's periodic review of the sanctions. His statements will not fall on receptive ears at the UNSC, particularly since the positions of the UNSC permanent members on the embargo have experienced a clear change due to Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments toward Resolution 687.

The paper accuses the U.S. president of taking positions that reflect a flagrant ignorance of the geopolitical facts of the Arab region, of the cohesive political regime in Iraq, and of the Iraqi people's rallying around its nationalist leadership.

The paper adds: Clinton must understand that his implication of Iraq in terrorism is meaningless. It is clear to those near and far that Iraq has nothing to do with terrorism. Clinton is aware of who the real terrorists are. Iraq has never been involved in the terrorism game, the parties to which have become known to all.

The paper notes the hostage games and the bargaining conducted between the United States, some Western countries, and some Middle Eastern parties and political regimes. The paper says this is flagrant proof of the involvement of the United States and these parties in terrorism. This shows Iraq has nothing to do with terrorism.

AL-THAWRAH says the "human rights" argument raised by the U.S. Administration whenever the UNSC's periodic review of the Iraq sanctions approaches has become ridiculous.

The paper urges the United States to adopt a balanced policy toward Iraq and the Arab homeland, because it is not in its interest to see Iraq weakened, as Clinton's advisers must have deluded him into believing. Iraq is a crucially important factor for development, progress, stability, and equilibrium in the region. It is a factor conducive to world security and peace. As for the embargo, it is about to be defeated, whether Clinton likes it or not.

Rabin: Accord Must Be Implemented, Not Reopened

TA0703120194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has again indicated he will not accept the PLO's demand for an international force to protect the Palestinians because this, in his view, would mean reopening agreements reached with the PLO for further negotiations. Rabin was addressing a seminar at the Hebrew University on the subject of the civil service in the time of peace. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] There is no point in negotiating an agreement if after a short time it can be reopened, Rabin said, for if that is the case, there must be serious doubt about the value of any new agreement which will be negotiated in the future. In the wake of the Hebron massacre, the PLO has demanded the stationing of an international force in the territories, the withdrawal of settlers from Hebron, and the wholesale disarming of settlers as conditions for a resumption of the talks, but in Rabin's view, this would mean rewriting the agreements reached in Oslo and more recently in Cairo. This view was echoed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Knesset this morning, after he appeared before the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee:

[Peres] The time, which is evaporating and disappearing, is a crucial one, and I personally believe that the most contributing change to the present situation will be the implementation of the agreement. Instead of opening the agreement, let's better realize it, and then all of us will see that we do not have an agreement about a piece of paper, but we do have an agreement about the new reality.

[Katzenell] Also present at the Hebrew University seminar today was Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi. He did not agree that the PLO's demands constituted a reopening of signed agreements:

[Al-Tibi] At present, 'Arafat and the PLO leadership is committed to the peace process. We are not talking about opening agreements; we are talking about a new circumstance that was created after the massacre. The most important and cardinal point should be security for Palestinian civilians. This issue should be solved as soon as possible for the sake of both parties in order that we will be able to come back to the negotiating table.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 7 March carries a similar report, noting that al-Tibi added "that we are in the midst of an agreement which, in another five years, will bring about a Palestinian state in all the territories captured in 1967. During this process, Israel must provide answers to the burning security issues of the Palestinians in the territories. Al-Tibi also said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], as the sovereign power in the territories, failed in the defense of the Palestinian residents."]

[Katzenell] Prime Minister Rabin called on the PLO leadership to overcome the pain and anger created by the Hebron massacre and return to the negotiating table quickly. The longer this is delayed, Rabin warned, the more opportunity there will be for Palestinian terrorists or, perhaps, another Jewish madman to exploit the break. [end recording]

Rabin Says Implementation Possible in 6 Weeks

TA0403141994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the Gaza-Jericho agreement can be implemented within six weeks. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Rabin made the remarks to an EC delegation led by the Greek foreign minister. The prime minister also said in the meeting that he would be ready to accept an international presence only in Gaza and Jericho after the Palestinians take over those areas. He also told the guests that Israel is interested in the resumption of the negotiations with the PLO as soon as possible, but he would not be prepared to reopen agreed upon accords.

Peres on Peace Process, Meeting 'Arafat

NC0603193494 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Passages within quotation marks in English with superimposed translation into Arabic]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with MBC, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres called for the resumption of peace talks between Israel and the PLO, saying that such a move would benefit both sides.

Responding to a question on the difficulties that the Hebron massacre has created for the peace talks and the fact that the massacre brought to the fore once again the issue of settlements, settlers, and their restraining effect on the peace process, Peres said:

[Begin recording] [Peres] "I admit that what happened created many pressures and problems for us. We have to find the suitable solutions. In my opinion, the most important development that should happen now is the implementation of the agreement, not its revision. I believe that the Palestinians and Arabs will feel a dramatic change once they are in control of their lives in Gaza and Jericho. Soon afterward, it will be possible to begin negotiating other matters. But if we scrap the agreement and start on a new one, we will remain suspended in midair for a long time and people will lose patience and eventually confidence in the possibility of achieving peace."

[Correspondent Mahir Shalabi] There is talk of a possible meeting between you and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat tomorrow in Cairo.

[Peres] "No agreement has been made about this meeting so far."

[Shalabi] If this meeting takes place, one of the issues that will be put before you is the deployment of international forces in the occupied territories.

[Peres] "If the meeting takes place and this subject is brought up, I will probably have an answer." [end recording]

Sources: 'Over 40' Settlements May Be Evacuated

TA0503191194 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The call for the evacuation of Jewish settlers from the heart of Hebron is not new, but it now appears that the problem is much more wide ranging. Senior government sources point to over 40 settlements that the government will probably have no choice but to evacuate. In the meantime, it seems that the tendency to leave voluntarily is growing among the settlers. Over 1,000 settlers have so far appealed to the Construction and Housing Ministry to leave and Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer admits that contrary to the law, he approved rental aid for the center of the country. Roni Daniyel and 'Imanu'el Rosen report:

[Begin recording] [Daniyel] This is the picture that says it all. In the heart of Hebron's casbah the white roofed houses belong to the Jewish settlement in the town. There are about 400 Jews in Tall al-Rumaythah, Bet Hadasa, Bet Romano, and the Avraham Avinu market among 120,000 Arabs. That is what threatens to ignite a big fire.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] That obliges us and the entire public to say to them: Despite all the pain and sorrow we feel, you are being evacuated from Qiryat Arba. Period. [passage omitted]

The Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs discussed the fate of those houses this week. Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer and Shulamit Aloni demanded the immediate evacuation of the Jews from Hebron. The prime minister listened but did not respond. Many ministers believe that he will order their evacuation, but not now, not before the Declaration of Principles is implemented. 'Uzi Bar'am promises to raise the issue at tomorrow's cabinet meeting.

[Bar'am] I think that only a few ministers have declared their opposition therefore there is still a silent group, including the foreign minister, and it is very important to hear their opinions on the matter.

[Rosen] What is the prime minister's stand on the Hebron issue, as far as you know.

[Bar'am] I think that the prime minister does not want to touch the Hebron issue because he wants to continue with the position that we do not evacuate settlements at this stage. I do not think he agrees with the settlement inside Hebron, he simply thinks it does not pay to concentrate all the forces on that issue now.

[Daniyel] But Hebron is only a small example of a much larger problem. This is Karmel which does not have Arab neighbors or in fact any neighbors. It is a Jewish settlement, 30 families, on the slopes of the Hebron Hills, with a narrow road and almost no traffic, a clear example of an isolated settlement. [passage omitted]

Karmel is also only one example. The government ministries and the defense establishment have already prepared the lists. Over 40 settlements are defined as isolated settlements in the heart of Arab areas. Put another way, it is Netzarim repeated 40 times. When autonomy is implemented, approaches to each of these settlements, for example Psagot, will become a military operation. [passage omitted]

[Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur] I believe we will want to set up coherent blocs of as many settlements as possible. We will have to find solutions for isolated settlements. I already know this will not be easy. Travel to them is very unpleasant, they pass through or nearby Arab villages. Topographically, it is very easy to set up ambushes there.

[Rosen] Not for attribution, we were told that the General Staff, the government, and the prime minister believe that the future of these settlements, or at least these, will be decided on in the near future, long before the permanent arrangement is discussed. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Temple Mount Prayers Held in 'Orderly' Fashion

TA0403123994

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 4 March reports that "today's Ramadan prayers on Temple Mount were held in a perfectly orderly fashion. Only some 20,000 worshipers turned out, and when prayers ended about 20 minutes ago, most of the worshipers dispersed."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 4 March adds that in a conversation with correspondent Aviv Bushinsky, Police Commissioner Rafi Peled said "that the Israel Police reached agreement with the Muslim waqf on the Temple Mount regarding ways to prevent confrontations between the Muslim worshipers and the police forces following Friday prayers. The commissioner noted that this is one of the steps the police took to prevent any violence. The other steps included the closure on the territories, as a result of which only residents of East Jerusalem attended the prayers. In addition, the police deployed massive forces in the Old City.

"The commissioner explained that the police decided to remove the Jewish worshipers from the Western Wall plaza for a limited time in order to ensure their safety. He stressed that this measure was taken in a bid to safeguard the Jewish worshipers."

Meretz Faction Opposes Tzomet Inclusion in Government

Inclusion Rejected at 'Present Time'

TA0303173194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Report by party affairs correspondent Sefi Hendler]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It looks as though Prime Minister Rabin is seriously pursuing the move to expand the coalition. Today, he held a phone conversation with Minister Shulamit Aloni and explained to her that not all the reports regarding this issue are accurate. Rabin told Meretz leader Aloni he wants to meet Meretz ministers tomorrow in order to explain the situation to them.

Meanwhile the Meretz Knesset faction convened in Tel Aviv today and decided to reject Tzomet's inclusion in the coalition at the present time. Environment Minister Yosi Sarid explains the decisions of his party:

[Begin Sarid recording] Meretz believes that the inclusion of Tzomet in the government at the present time is unwarranted and should be rejected. In the wake of the Hebron massacre and its grave repercussions Tzomet's inclusion would send out a negative message to our Palestinian interlocutors, Israeli Arabs and their public and Knesset representatives, and would have an adverse effect on the peace process' chances of quickly proceeding toward a positive conclusion. [end recording]

It is worthwhile to note that Minister Sarid put the emphasis on the present time. Meretz believes that at the present time Tzomet's inclusion would harm the peace process, but in a few months—after the first stage of the Oslo agreement is implemented—conditions could change.

Meretz's statement also mentioned SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], calling on it to return to the coalition. Meretz is perhaps signalling to Rabin that they are willing to compromise on SHAS' return to the coalition. [passage omitted]

Faction Reaffirms Veto

TA0403163694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The Meretz party has decided to stick by its opposition to Refa'el Eytan's Tzomet party joining the coalition with Labor. Their position, outlined by Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, followed a meeting with Prime Minister Rabin at which he again asked Meretz to lift its veto on Tzomet. It was reported after this session that while Meretz did not rule out the possibility, they did not think this was the right time. Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili said he got the impression that while Meretz would accommodate the Orthodox SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party on issues of constitutional legislation, it would not budge where Tzomet was concerned.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan today refused to promise not to join the present government. He was speaking to settler leaders from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip who visited him at his home in Tel 'Adashim, and expressed alarm at the reports of contacts between Tzomet and the ruling Labor party. However, Eytan called Qol Yisra'el this morning saying it was not true he had accepted the government's basic guidelines or its policy on the peace negotiations.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu says his party will support the government, but only from the opposition benches, if it stops freeing terrorists and takes steps to restore security. Netanyahu made the statement at a right-wing demonstration, one of a series taking place every Friday at Ra'ananna in central Israel.

Threatens To Leave Coalition

TA0503202394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] A coalition crisis is possible. The Meretz Knesset faction threatens to walk out of the coalition the moment Labor starts negotiating with Tzomet on joining the government. This was decided tonight in a meeting attended by Meretz ministers and its caucus. Meretz notes that the coalition agreement gives it veto powers over other parties joining the coalition, and it is certain that Prime Minister Rabin will abide by the agreement. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Meretz says that coopting Tzomet into the coalition will constitute a negative message to the PLO leadership, Israel's Arab community, and the entire peace process.

Minister Shulamit Aloni informed Prime Minister RBbin of the Meretz decision. She said his response was indignation and that he said he would continue contacts with Tzomet. Minister Aloni said the prime minister thinks Meretz has to do his bidding and that he demands more from it than from his own party. She said they are two separate parties and the Meretz position also has to be taken into account.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan told our correspondent that following the Meretz decision his information permits negotiations into Tzomet joining the government.

Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili said the Meretz decision is strange. It is unclear why they rule out Tzomet, which is ready to join on the basis of the government's basic guidelines, he said.

Amman Mosque Preachers Denounce Hebron Massacre

JN0403133194

[Editorial Report] Amman radio and television carry live broadcasts on 4 March of Friday prayers from mosques in Amman.

Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 4 March carries a live broadcast of Friday prayers from al-Husayni Mosque in central Amman. The broadcast includes a 36-minute "religious lesson" by Dr. Dawud al-Fa'uri of the University of Jordan's Islamic Sharia college.

Al-Fa'uri begins by hailing those who died in the Hebron massacre on 25 February. The preacher questions the behavior of those who claim to be "the chosen people of God, and the sons and beloved of God, only to appear in their true colors in front of the whole world as enemies of God, humanity, and peace."

He says: "How can they describe as extremism the behavior of the innocent child who hurls a stone at the man who attacked him and took all of his possessions, and fail to call extremism the flagrant shooting of those who are prostrated before God in prayer at the Khalil al-Rahman [Abraham] Mosque?"

Al-Fa'uri adds: "The first party responsible for the kind of extremism and murder that has taken place is the Israeli Government, which fights extremism elsewhere while nurturing it at home. It gave weapons to the settlers and has watched the extremism of Jewish religious groups such as the Kakh Movement, the Kahane Movement, and Shas. The least the Israeli Government should have done was to withdraw weapons from the settlers and the extremist religious organization, at least during the peace talks. The least it should have done is to execute all those who carried out the murders in front of the whole world, as it does when it brings down homes on the heads of their residents based on a suspicion or for throwing a stone."

Al-Fa'uri blames Arabs and Muslims for their disunity, despite factors of similarity among them. He blames the international community for closing its eyes to anti-Arab and anti-Islamic crimes. He congratulates those who are steadfastly defending "their brothers, honor, and property" in the occupied territory and calls on believers to help them in every possible way. He urges the people to follow the example of King Husayn in contributing to their Palestinian brothers and praised the Jordanian people's stand in support of the Palestinian people.

Al-Fa'uri devotes the remainder of his "lesson" to the merits of the fasting month of Ramadan and al-Qadr night, during which the Koran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

Amman radio also carries another a 23-minute "sermon" on obedience to God's teachings. The unidentified preacher laments the poor condition of Muslims, which he attributes to their failure to follow their true religion, and praises ancient Islamic tradition. The preacher refers to massacres and injustice committed against Muslims in the world, including the Hebron massacre committed by "the Zionists". He praises the Hebron victims, who will have their "reward in the hereafter." He asks the people to contribute to the support of the families of the victims.

Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 0945 GMT carries a live broadcast from King 'Abdallah Mosque in Amman that includes a 24-minute sermon on religious values and the merits of the holy month of Ramadan.

Massacre Reopens 'War' of Palestinian Representation

JN0403172094 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 5-11 Mar p 20

[Text] The Hebron massacre has rekindled the old-new competition between Jordan and the PLO over the legitimate representation of Palestinians inside the occupied territories.

Since the early moments of the massacre, Jordan—king and government—acted in a manner showing that it is the major party concerned with this affairs. The language used by King Husayn indicated that he is the person most directly concerned with what happened at the Ibrahimi Mosque. The Royal Court thus declared a three-day mourning period and his majesty donated 100,000 dinars to the victims of the massacre. The king also immediately instructed the Jordanian delegation in Washington to inform the U.S. Administration of the suspension of the negotiations—without consulting the PLO. His majesty also received appeals from Hebron residents asking him to come to their rescue. These appeals are a political yardstick showing that Jordan is the party to which the people inside the territories turn in times of hardship.

The Jordanian Government, led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, has translated the political significance of the steps taken by King Husayn into concrete action. It has asserted, through a show of mourning and by sponsoring licensed demonstrations and marches, that it was deeply affected by what happened in Hebron. For the first time in its history, the Jordanian Government has been the leader in a state of "protest" against what is happening inside the occupied territories.

These "panoramic" steps raised controversy among Palestinian community leaders. Some observers even went as far as to say that Jordan has reopened the traditional competition between Amman and the PLO over Palestinian representation. This war of representation did not end with the decision issued by the 1974 Rabat summit, which asserted that the PLO is the sole, legitimate

representative of the Palestinian people. On many occasions, King Husayn voiced reservations about this decision when it has not facilitated the mission of the Palestinians to acquire their legitimate rights as the Arabs had thought.

Minister Denies Issuing Passport to Saddam Aide

JN0403190494 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 5 Mar 94 p 15

[Excerpts] Many questions still surround the news of a secret visit to France for medical treatment by Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's adviser. Word of the visit, carried by an opposition radio in northern Iraq, has set off a political crisis within the French Government. The Iraqi opposition radio said Lt. Gen. al-Majid obtained an entry visa to France under an assumed name and on a Jordanian diplomatic passport, along with his secretary, Khalid al-Makhzumi, and his wife, who is Saddam's daughter.

Al-Majid had been hospitalized at the King Husayn Medical Center, where he underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor that turned out to be benign. [passage omitted]

The question remains, however, whether Jordan really made Jordanian passports available to the Iraqis. Jordan's Interior Minister Salamah Hammad, in a statement to SHIHAN, has disclaimed any knowledge of the passport issue, and stressed that his ministry has not issued passports to any Iraqis.

Paper Reports Iraq Tightening Controls at Border

JN0703093894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] Amman—Officials, Iraqi sources and travellers Sunday [6 March] said the Iraqi government had tightened existing rules as well as imposing fresh measures against smuggling across the border to Jordan in a bid to check the seepage of goods from Iraq, which is under a sweeping international embargo.

Particular attention is given to checking foreign currency and electronic and electrical goods at the Iraqi crossing point into Jordan at Tirbil in the wake of a dramatic plunge in the value of the Iraqi dinar since early this year, they said.

In many cases vehicles carrying diplomatic plates are also searched thoroughly before being allowed out, they said.

Iraqi nationals carrying foreign currency with them into the country also face similar problems, they said.

"There does not appear to be any hard and fast rule for the amount of foreign currency one could carry while he or she goes in," said an Iraqi source. "Sometimes even small amounts are seized from travellers."

"On the other hand, many businessmen appear not to have any serious problems," added the source.

Beyond that, however, are stricter measures aimed at preventing imported products leaving Iraq territory, the sources said.

"Every piece of baggage is checked very throughly and anything that raises doubts that it could be used for commercial purposes is confiscated at the border poknt before the traveller leaves Iraq," said an Iraqi source.

A traveller reported that two of three Irqi-made leather jackets he was carrying were seized at the border. "They said they could permit only one for personal use," the traveller told the JORDAN TIMES.

In another case, a foreign journalist who had carried with him extra lenses and other camera accessories on an assignment in Iraq reported that he was not allowed to take them out.

"I had registered my cameras when I went in, but did not bother to do so with the lenses and some other accessories," said the photographer. "On my way out, they said I could carry only the cameras and confiscated the lenses and accessories, saying I could not prove I had taken them with me when I went in. Intervention by Iraqi officials in Baghdad did not help either."

According to experts on Iraqi economy and the government approaches to imports and exports, Baghdad appeared to be concerned that it would have to spend massive amounts in foreign exchange for imports to meet local demands as and when the sanctions are lifted. And, as such, It wants to retrain whatever remains in the country, they said.

Border officials on the Jordanian side said they were finding fewer cases of smuggling and fewer items that are subject to Jordanian customs regulations in travellers baggage.

"We used to find many travellers, both Iraqis and others, carrying foreign-made cameras, watches, perfumes, electronic equipment, etc., and most of the time levy customs on them," said an official. "These days the flow of such items seems to have dried up."

According to Iraqi sources, the Baghdad government wants to check people trying to take out electronic and electric goods that the country imported prior to the imposition of the sanctions in August 1990.

A massive quantity of such products also ended up in the Iraqi market from Kuwait which remained under Iraqi occupation between August 1990 and March 1991.

The Iraqi source noted that Iraqi rules in force for many years prevent the outflow of goods imported into Iraq without prior government permission, but that the regulations were enforced with relative laxity until recently.

"Now, the rules are enforced to the letter," said the source. "Only those with wasta (connection with influential officials) are an exception."

Official Confirms Departure of Iranian Diplomats

JN0503101794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 94 p 3

[By Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] A total of 33 Iranian diplomats have slipped out of the country quietly in compliance with a Jordanian request that Tehran reduce its diplomatic representation here to a number compatible with Amman's presence in the Iranian capital.

As part of the agreement between Amman and Tehran, the last of the 33 diplomats left at the end of February and the previously bustling embassy, according to the secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been reduced to four diplomats, including the ambassador, four administrators, a driver and cook.

Nayef Hadid told the JORDAN TIMES that the Kingdom believed it was necessary to request the reduction because the number of Iranian diplomats in Jordan was not compatible with Amman's two diplomats in Tehran.

In the first on-the-record confirmation of the Jordanian request, Mr. Hadid said that he first approached the Iranian ambassador here about reducting his diplomatic staff in November last year.

"Ten days later, Iranian guards shot at our embassy in Tehran injuring a security man," Mr Hadid said. The shooting incident was not reported in Jordan.

Officials, however, had said that Jordanian ambassador to Iran Yasin Istanbuli was attacked at his home in Tehran and his assailants searched his house and stole some of its contents in August of that year.

It was Tehran's refusal to apologise officially over the mistreatment of the Jordanian ambassador that initially made the Jordanian government ask for the reduction.

Sources had said that Mr. Istanbuli was tied up for several hours while his assailants searched his house and stole some of its contents.

Jordanian officials at the time expressed their suspicion that the assailants of Mr. Istanbuli belonged to one of the security wings in Iran and demanded that the Iranian government investigate the cause.

The government here, according to the sources, also demanded an "official apology" from Tehran but only received a message that the Iranian government was "sorry" that the attack had taken place.

Privately, officials say that the Kingdom was becoming concerned over increased activities by Iranian diplomats to infiltrate cultural and research centres in the Kingdom and distribute leaflets targetting Gulf regimes.

Officials contacted by the JORDAN TIMES would not confirm these accusations but one source said that the embassy had been able to win support among private sector businessmen here and that these influential traders contacted the Foreign Ministry on behalf of the embassy when it first became known that they were being asked to reduce their staff.

Jordan and Iran restored diplomatic relations in 1990 after a decade of strained relations caused by Amman's support of Iraq in the 1980-88 war. Iran reopened its embassy in March 1990 and appointed the first ambassador in 13 years in October 1993.

Source: U.S. Navy Continues Ship Interceptions

JN0603101394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—U.S. Navy vessels in the Straits of Tiran have continued to stop commercial vessels bound for al-'Aqabah. An official source at the Tawfiq Gharghur & Sons Shipping Company told AL-RA'Y on 1 March the Maltese ship "Angelic" was intercepted at the Straits of Tiran by the U.S. Navy. The ship was coming from Eastern European ports with 2062 tonnes of goods and dozens of containers on board. The U.S. Navy inspected the ship on the pretext that they could not have access to some packages addressed to Jakarta Port in cabin No. 3, which contained no goods for Jordan at all.

This took place despite the fact that the captain and crew of the ship cooperated fully with the inspection team and proposed sealing the ship's cabins that contained no cargo for Jordan. The purpose was to allow the ship to unload the al-'Aqabah goods and then go back to the inspection site while the other cabins were still closed. The inspection officer, however, refused and prevented the ship from proceeding toward al-'Aqabah. The ship was forced to head for Suez Port to unload its cargo for Jordanian merchants.

Delegation to Washington Peace Talks Returns

NC0603175494 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Ambassadors Ja'far Mu'awiyah, Samir Mubarak, and Jihad Murtada, members of the Lebanese delegation to the Washington Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks, returned to Beirut from Washington via Paris this afternoon, following the suspension of the 12th round of talks. The delegation's head, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, is still in the United States, but on a private visit.

Officials Discuss Developments in Church Bombing

Al-Hirawi, U.S. Envoy Meet

NC0503123194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Mark Hambley at B'abda Palace this morning. They discussed the massacre at the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Micha'il, developments in Lebanon, and the suspension of the bilateral talks following the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Hambley handed President al-Hirawi a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton expressing the feelings of the American people and their strong support for Lebanon in foiling the attempts of those who are trying to infringe upon its independence.

After the meeting with President al-Hirawi, Hambley said that the visit was intended to express condemnation of the carnage at the Sayyidat al-Najat Church, which caused the death of innocent people. He reiterated his country's support for the peace process and its emphasis on continuing these steps toward peace. He noted that President Clinton had stressed his support for President al-Hirawi and, through him, to the other Lebanese leaders and people.

Responding to a question on continuing the talks after their suspension in the wake of the Hebron massacre, Hambley said that his country is trying to find a suitable atmosphere for a resumption of the talks and the peace process in the region. He noted that his country is contacting all parties and expects the parties to resume talks in Washington soon.

Defense Minister Interviewed

NC0503113594 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has announced that it is unfair to claim that security is deficient despite the existence of many security agencies in the country.

In an interview carried on Radio Free Lebanon's "Dialogue With an Official" program, Dallul stated: We must not forget that these agencies were very recently an object of admiration and appreciation by all citizens and officials. We must have confidence in the security agencies and give them a chance to uncover the perpetrators of the crime. It is still premature to say that they have failed.

Regarding coordination among these security agencies, Dallul admitted there is a flaw in this respect, which he ascribed to the statutes by which they were established which ignore the issue of operational coordination among all these departments.

He added: Of course, the Central Security Council meets regularly under the chairmanship of the interior minister, but perhaps we should have more practical and effective coordination.

Dallul said it might be possible to give some good news to the citizens to offset some of the sorrow that they have suffered since the church bombing in al-Zuq. He said he has the impression that there will be some results very soon, noting that the citizens, officials, and media must support the security agencies and disregard any aspersions against them at this particular time.

Regarding reports of the arrest of some women who allegedly carried out the bombing, Dallul said this is a lie told at the expense of the security agencies and is not the work of any agency seeking to discredit another.

He added: They exploited an individual working in a certain media institution who also serves the interests of a certain group and disseminated this report through him. The report aims to confuse the entire investigation. The authorities immediately arrested this person and interrogated him.

Dallul said that everyone who has been interrogated has been treated as a witness with possible useful information, not interrogated as a suspect.

Muslim Figure Accuses Israel

NC0503072094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has renewed his accusation that Israel engineered the massacre at Sayyidat al-Najat Church. He stressed that this is a type of crime that only Israel commits. He did not rule out the possibility that the perpetrators may be Lebanese Christians, Maronites, or Muslims, adding: We exonerate no one; the crime happened and its perpetrators are at large in our society. And Israel has tools and agents in Lebanon. He went on to call on the government to uncover the criminals because we want to learn the identity of these tools of Israel.

Grand Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan has said that the total condemnation of the Sayyidat al-Najah Church crime has fortified Lebanon anew, enhanced the Lebanese people's vigilance and cohesion, and consolidated their national unity.

Fadlallah Comments

NC0403183794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has demanded that the perpetrators of the Zuq Mikha'il church massacre be tracked down because this crime is not a Christian or Muslim problem. It is a Lebanese-Arab problem. Fadlallah believes that this is a crucial stage and that the situation in the region will be moving toward further mix up. He affirmed that any shake-up in the Arab reality will have echoes in Lebanon.

French Diplomat Denounces Bombing

NC0103125194 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Denis Barbet, second counselor at the French Embassy, has denounced the explosion at the Maronite church. He said it is up to the Lebanese authorities to determine the circumstances and reasons behind the incident.

The French official was speaking after a visit to the Bustrus Palace, where he handed the Foreign Ministry's secretary general a message from French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe to Minister Faris Buwayz. He declined to reveal the content of the message, leaving this up to Buwayz.

Former Militia Head Sentenced for Collaboration

NC2502221394 Paris AFP in English 1750 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] Beirut, Feb 25 (AFP)—The head of a former Lebanese Christian militia was sentenced in absentia to seven years of hard labour by a military court here for allegedly collaborating with Israel, a court source said on Friday [25 February].

Etienne Saqr was accused of "collaborating with the Israeli enemy," the source said.

One of his aides, Samir Philippe Nasr, who has been jailed for the past six months, was also sentenced to two years of hard labour on the same charges.

Saqr, who headed the Guardians of the Cedars militia, was accused of having told Nasr to ask renegade army general Michel 'Awn to cooperate with "Zionist circles" and the Jewish lobby in the United States.

'Awn, who lives in exile in France, turned down the request, according to the military prosecutor's findings.

Saqr denied the charges against him in November, but said he was in favour of establishing good relations with Israel.

Since 1989, Saqr has lived in his home village of Sabbah, in the Jazin district of south Lebanon, an area controlled by Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

The Lebanese authorities have cracked down on several people alleged to have supported normal ties with Israel, including Miss Lebanon Ghada Turk, accused of deliberately posing with Miss Israel at an international beauty contest in Johannesburg late last year.

PSP Names Command Council, Deputy Leaders

NC0603152394 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Statement by Sharif Fayyad, secretary general of the Progressive Socialist Party, PSP, followed by a question and answer session with unidentified reporters, after a meeting of the PSP General Assembly in B'aqlin on 6 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Fayyad] The PSP General Assembly met today in the absence of PSP leader Walid Junblatt, who is indisposed and has to stay in bed. The Assembly approved the final draft of a political document, discussed organizational matters, and elected members to the PSP Command Council.

The PSP charter and statutes stipulate that the Assembly has to approve nominations to the Command Council. Accordingly, the Assembly approved the formation of the 18-member Command Council.

The Assembly elected eight Command Council members. These are: Durayd Yaghi, Sharif Fayyad, Joseph al-Qazzi, Mahdi Shahadah, Bassam Daww, Kamal Mu'awwad, Antoine al-Asqar, and 'Awad Sulaybah. The eight were elected unopposed.

The PSP leader appointed six members to the Command Council. These are: Jamal Isma'il, Mustafa Yahya, Halim Abu-Fakhr-al-Din, Ibrahim Ayyub, Khalil Ahmad Khalil, and 'Isam al-Halabi.

In addition to these 14 members, the Command Council will include the following parliamentary deputies: 'Ala-al-Din Sirru, Ayman Shuqayr, and Akram Shuhayyib, as well as the PSP leader, bringing the total number to 18.

The PSP leader appointed Durayd Yaghi and Antoine al-Ashqar as his deputies. He also appointed the following colleagues as his advisers: Fu'ad Salman, Ghazi al-'Aridi, Dawud Hamid, and 'Isam al-Jawhari. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [words indistinct] What are the most salient features of the political document?

[Fayyad] We will release a written copy of the full and final version of the political document as it was approved today to the media, thus placing it at everybody's disposal. [passage omitted]

UN Urged To Take Action on Massacre, Settlements

Press Urges 'Firm' Resolution

JN0603084894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israeli Hypocrisy," the newspaper TISHRIN editorial says: The world is awaiting a positive UN Security Council [UNSC] stand condemning the heinous Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, providing for protection of Palestinians under occupation, and underscoring the foundations of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Meanwhile, Israeli officials have been making a flood of statements, demanding the immediate resumption of the negotiations, as if the massacre did not take place, as if the settlers problem has been resolved, and as if there are no longer any threats to Arab lives.

TISHRIN adds: Israeli officials have leaked reports to the effect that they have disarmed only two settlers. We should remember that the population of Zionist settlers in the occupied territories stands at 150,000. The settlers, who are armed to the teeth, have not concealed their determination to persist with their murders, sabotage, and massacres. This shows the immense deception in which the Israeli officials are engaged, as well as the immense disregard in which they hold the international community.

The paper notes the Israeli officials' zeal for the resumption of their stalled talks with the Palestinians. The paper maintains that this reflects their fears over the future of the Oslo and Cairo accords. This is because the two accords have, practically speaking, given Israel a free hand in the occupied Arab territories, and consecrated fully the Zionist domination of affairs there.

The paper says: The two accords provide for security arrangements, as well as a redeployment of Israeli troops to protect settlements. By contrast, these accords have failed to include any provisions regarding the protection of Palestinians from the attacks of settlers or the Israeli Army.

TISHRIN believes that the Israeli demand that Syria declare commitment to just and comprehensive peace is a clear manifestation of Israeli hypocrisy. The paper reiterates that Syria, through President al-Asad, has repeatedly declared such a commitment. Moreover, Syria repeatedly saved the Washington talks from collapse, and made repeated calls for a true peace in the Middle East. However, Israel has lent deaf ears to these calls. It has done all it can to blackmail the Palestinians and push them toward a separate deal that neither realizes the Palestinian people's aspirations, nor meets the requirements of the desired peace in the region.

Concluding its editorial, the paper urges the UNSC, which is continuing its debate on the Hebron massacre, to uphold the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and prove the credibility of the world community by dotting the i's and crossing the t's and condemning settlement activities as a policy, approach, and practice.

In a commentary published today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the savage practices the Israeli occupation authorities are perpetrating against the Palestinians of the occupied Arab territories, saying: Since the Hebron massacre, Israel has been enforcing a military siege against the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, isolating their residents from the outside world. It has clamped a curfew on some 2 million Palestinians, and given its troops a free hand to spread fear and terror throughout the occupied territories. These troops have perpetrated murders, repression, and terrorism that are no less heinous or hideous than the Hebron massacre.

The paper adds: What has taken place, and is currently taking place in the occupied territories has failed to move the conscience of the international community. To date, no punitive measures or actions have been taken to make Israel halt its bloody repression. Nobody has asked Israel to lift the curfews, which have turned the lives of hundreds of thousands of people into an intolerable inferno due to the acute shortages of food and medical supplies.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: The reactions to the Hebron massacre have been confined to useless condemnations and denunciations that cannot prompt the Tel Aviv rulers to halt the savage practices being perpetrated by their troops and settlers.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: If it is really concerned about security and stability in the Middle East, and if it wants the peace process to achieve its objectives, the world community must urge the UNSC to adopt a firm and decisive resolution providing for the dismantlement of settlements in the occupied territories, and for protection of Palestinians. Such a resolution must make Israel do all that needs to be done to promote the cause of peace.

Radio Calls for 'Positive' Stand

JN0603155894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: While the world waited, expecting the UN Security Council to take a positive stand by condemning the brutal Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, by ensuring the protection of the Palestinians living under the yolk of occupation, and by stressing the bases of a just and comprehensive Middle East peace, Israeli officials made statement after statement demanding an immediate resumption of the negotiations, as if the massacre had not occurred, as if the problem of the

settlers had been solved, and as if there were no longer a threat posed to Arab citizens!

Israeli officials leaked information alleging that they had disarmed just two settlers. But there are some 150,000 heavily armed Jewish settlers, who do not even try to conceal their determination to continue the murders, destruction, and massacres. Thus we see the true extent of the Israeli officials' deception and their disregard for the international community.

In fact, Israeli officials' eagerness to resume the suspended talks with the Palestinians is due to their fear for the Oslo and Cairo agreements, which have practically given Israel a free hand in the occupied Arab territories affairs and entrenched total Zionist hegemony. While both agreements stipulate security arrangements and an Israeli military deployment, they do not, in return, include any arrangement for the protection of the Palestinian people from attacks by the settlers and the Israeli Army.

Israeli officials are also concerned over the growth of the Palestinian intifadah throughout the occupied territories. This threatens both agreements with collapse and sheds light on the main problem represented by occupation, settlement, and Israel's refusal to apply Security Council resolutions organizing the peace process. By trying to revive the negotiations, the Israeli officials want to deceive the international community and to prevent the Security Council from passing a resolution stressing the bases of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, condemning the settlement policy, calling for the dismantling of the settlements, and providing protection for the Palestinian people.

Israel's calls for peace do not stand up to any test. It is Israel that occupies the Arab territories, refuses to withdraw from them, commits crimes, instigates the settlers to commit massacres, arms and finances settlers, and prevents the Washington talks from advancing a single step. Over two years of talks, the Arab delegations have heard nothing other than Israeli security pretexts and conditions, while Arabs in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon fell victims. It is the Arab side that certainly needs security guarantees. The terrible Hebron massacre exposed Israel's hypocrisy and allegations, which are aimed at preventing the application of the Security Council's resolutions and the return of the occupied territories to their rightful owners.

Israel's call on Syria to declare its commitment to achieving a just and comprehensive peace gives a clear idea of Israel's hypocrisy. Syria has announced such a commitment hundreds of times through President al-Asad, it has repeatedly saved the Washington talks from collapse, and it has called for true peace in the Middle East that can survive in the face of events and variables. But Israel lent a deaf ear to these calls and focused all its efforts on how to blackmail the Palestinian side and to push it into a unilateral settlement that does not meet the aspirations of the Palestinian people and the requirements of the desired peace in the region. How quickly the snow melted and Israel's peace concepts were exposed! Israel wants to kill the Palestinian people by raking them with machine guns and rockets, all under the pretext of security allegations.

The Security Council, which is continuing its consultations on the Hebron massacre, must live up to the principles of the United Nations and the credibility of the international community in order to clarify matters, to condemn the settlement process in terms of politics and application, and to clearly call for Israel's total withdrawal as a basic conditions for a stable peace in the Middle East.

Paper Denies 'Claims' Syrian Jews 'in Danger'

JN0503070194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today under the headline "Israeli Lies," TISHRIN speaks about claims of U.S. Jewish organizations about the living conditions of Jews in Syria.

The paper says these claims are part of a systematic campaign to create confusion and cast doubt on Syria and its positions that call for achieving a just and comprehensive peace, as well as putting an end to Israeli attempts to blow up the peace process.

TISHRIN asserts that when Israel raises doubts about the situation of Jews in Syria, it knows well that it will only reap failure and will not be able to exonerate itself of the crimes it is committing in broad daylight against Arab citizens and holy shrines.

Noting the massacres Israel itself has committed against Jews to drive them to emigrate to Palestine, the paper says: We recall these official practices only to assert that Israel and its terrorist and extremist organizations seek—by propagating their illusions that Syrian Jews are in danger—to distract attention from the denunciation and condemnation of what it did at the Ibrahimi Mosque and the Sayyidat al-Najat Church. The whole world regards the unbelievable Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories with anger, rage, and suspicion.

The paper adds: The world, and the Jews of Syria, have acknowledged that they are living in their homeland and enjoying full peace and security. Israel has no right to fabricate lies and launch claims and falsehoods about the status of Jews in Syria, because they form an indivisible part of the Syrian people and enjoy, without discrimination, all rights of citizenship to travel, movement, ownership, responsibilities, work, and residence. The Jews of Syria are in no need of misleading Israeli claims. They have said that they do not accept any substitute for their

homeland, Syria, and they are capable of producing evidence to reply to Israeli lies.

The paper concludes: Israel should be the first party to acknowledge that it entertains illusions about what is it saying. The result will be similar to cultivating the sea. Its lies, no matter how skillfully fabricated, can fool no one. Israel is facing the results of its own terrorism and is held responsible for its crimes and massacres.

Paper Urges International Observers in Territories

JN0503072794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In two articles, AL-THAWRAH speaks about the dimensions of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and its impact on the Middle East peace process.

The first article, under the headline "Settlers, A Major Pillar of Occupation," talks about the dangers Israeli settlement activity poses to the peace process and the impossibility of achieving peace under this settlement activity, which is a form of occupation.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that contrary to the expectations of Israeli rulers, the monstrosity of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre has revealed to the whole world that the complex of racism controls Zionists, particularly the settlers. The massacre revealed the extent of their black rancor against Arabs, to the point of physical liquidation. Those people do not care about the negative—in fact destructive—impact this will have on the peace process, on which the world community pins great hopes of achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH says such a peace cannot be established before the Israeli occupiers and the Zionist settlers leave the occupied territories. Let the settlers be the first to do this.

The paper adds: If the international community wants the bilateral peace talks to resume, then appropriate resolutions should be issued to provide international protection for Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories, to disarm the settlers, and to deploy international observers as a prelude to dismantling the Zionist settlements.

In the second article, under the headline "Incapable Security Council", the paper speaks about another aspect of this issue. It explains that the Security Council's slowness in issuing an appropriate resolution regarding Israel's responsibility for the massacre and the situation in the occupied territories has exacerbated matters and encouraged the Yitzhaq Rabin government to go further in its measures to kill Palestinians and impose a tight military siege and curfew following the massacre.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Rabin has shown an extreme disregard by not ruling out a repeat of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre elsewhere in the occupied territories. He wants to threaten the Palestinians with new massacres and takes lightly the Security Council.

The paper says Arabs have a fair and necessary demand before the Security Council. They want the Security Council resolution to refer to an international deployment to ensure the security of Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories, including the city of Jerusalem as part of the 1967-occupied territories.

The paper adds: Israeli policy, which is drowning in terrorism, aims at depriving Washington of any peaceful achievement, as long as the United States does not intervene and only asks the parties concerned with the peace process to reach solutions, and avoids applying pressure.

The paper concludes: Israel does not really want peace. The evidence is the obstruction of the peace talks, the increase of Israeli crimes, and the continuing construction of settlements and the occupation of Arab territories. Peace does not coexist with occupation.

Iran

Deputies' Resolution Offers Solution to Zionism 'Problem'

LD0503172094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, a resolution signed by more than 140 deputies was read during the Majles open session this afternoon condemning the horrific crimes of the Zionists in Hebron and the mysterious and treacherous silence of international forums and false supporters of human rights.

The resolution—expressing support for His Eminence Imam Khomeyni's justified stand on the need for the elimination of the Zionist regime from the world map and following the esteemed leader's stand—has emphasized: The solution to the problem of Zionism and uprooting of this cancerous tumor will not be possible except through continuation of the armed conflict.

The resolution, in part, says: What is tragic in the wake of this painful development is the fact that global arrogance—led by America and criminal Zionism—has declared the occurrence of this tragedy as solid preparation for continuation of the compromising talks and has expressed the need for speeding up the sell-out plan.

In the conclusion of the resolution, the deputies of the Islamic Majles have called upon our country's noble and revolutionary people and all freedom loving people and Muslims of the world to pour out the fire of their revolutionary wrath and anger against the usurping Zionism, through enthusiastic participation in rallies of the international Jerusalem Day, and to repay their debt to the unjustly shed blood of the innocent Palestinians by chanting slogans of death to Israel and death to America.

Further on Resolution

NC0503160494 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 5 (AFP)—The Iranian parliament on Saturday [5 March] called for a Palestinian armed struggle against Israel until the Jewish state disappeared from the face of the earth.

"We declare that the problem of Zionism will only be solved through armed struggle against Israel until the cancerous tumor disappears from the map of the world," said a statement from deputies, read out in parliament.

The deputies condemned the February 25 massacre of Moslem worshipers by a Jewish settler in the West Bank town of Hebron, and warned against using the "painful tragedy" as a catalyst for progress in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

They also slammed the international community's "treacherous silence" over the "shocking crime."

Palestinian doctors say 52 Arabs were killed in the shooting, while the Israeli army has put the toll at 30.

On Friday Iranian spiritual guide Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i called for a massive uprising against Israel, with the backing of the Islamic world.

Fathi al-Shiqaqi, head of the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad in Palestine group, vowed here Saturday that Palestinian militants would soon launch revenge attacks against Israel in retaliation for the Hebron massacre.

Paper Says Country 'Could Improve' Ties With U.S.

NC0503102494 Paris AFP in English 0931 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 5 (AFP)—Iran could improve ties with its arch-enemy the United States if Washington began settling financial disputes with the Islamic Republic, a newspaper close to Islamic hardliners said here Saturday.

The KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, an English-language newspaper, said a "solution may be found to the animosity" between Iran and the United States if Washington could prove it was "sincere" about improving ties.

"As a first step, Washington should release" billions of dollars in Iranian assets frozen in the United States since 1979, when Iranian students occupied the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and held U.S. nationals hostage, it said.

The call by KAYHAN was the first since Tehran ruled out negotiations with Washington in November, on the anniversary of the embassy siege, and appeared to put to rest speculation about attempts to improve ties.

Iran and the United States have not had diplomatic ties since 1980, one year after the Islamic revolution which toppled the pro-American shah.

The paper also urged compensation for the relatives of the passengers of an Iranian civilian airliner downed by the U.S. Navy over the Gulf.

The Iran Air Airbus was shot down by two missiles fired from the cruiser USS Vincennes on July 3, 1988, shortly after taking off from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

The United States has maintained that the shooting was an accident, the plane being mistaken for a military aircraft.

The daily however voiced doubt that Washington would "ever be able" to come to terms with the Iranian revolution, or understand that Iran "could never be forced to yield" under pressure.

Velayati Welcomes Chinese Foreign Minister

LD0403110294 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—Chinese deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Qian Qichen, arrived here this morning and was welcomed by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Upon arrival at Mehrabad airport, Qichen told reporters that the objective of his trip was to expand bilateral relations and to exchange views on international issues.

Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran as an important bridge between the European And asian continents, he noted that the two countries have common viewpoints on fmany international and regional issues.

Pointing to significant roles of Iran and China in the region, the Chinese official termed Tehran-Beijing relations as friendly and traditional.

He then strongly condemned the recent massacre of Palestinian worshippers by the Zionist regime at al-Khalil mosque last Friday, adding that the killings have had a negative impression on the so- called peace process in the region.

On China's reaction towards American allegations of human rights violation, Qichen said "we do not let any foreign country interfere in our internal affairs. The government is following up the matter."

Velayati also referred to the two countries ties as "important and determining factor" in the region and noted that the relationship can be the base of peace and tranquility in the region.

Iran-China bilateral relation progressed since the triumph of the Islamic revolution, and important decisions have been taken by the two sides, the major part of which has been implemented, Velayati remarked.

Velayati, PRC Official Interviewed

LD0403155094 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] China's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, arrived in Tehran on Friday morning and was welcomed at Mehrabad International Airport by Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati. Mr. Qian and his delegation are expected to stay in Iran for two days. A top-ranking political- economic delegation accompanies Mr. Qian Qichen in his visit to Iran.

Shortly after arriving, China's foreign minister took part in a press conference, which was also attended by Iran's foreign minister. The visiting Chinese official expressed his happiness at being in Iran and referred to Sino-Iranian ties as sincere and fruitful. Pointing to the Islamic Republic of Iran as a country bridging Asia and Europe, Mr. Qian added: The Republic of China believes establishing healthy relations with Iran should bear positive effects not only in the region, but also in the world arena.

China's deputy prime minister then referred to the two states' economic ties and said:

[Begin Qian recording in Chinese, with superimposed English translation] The level of trade exchanges between China and Iran are satisfactory; declaring that both nations are willing to expand reciprocal cooperation in various economic fields. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Foreign Minister, how do you view Mr. Qian's visit to Iran and what issues are likely to be discussed between you and your Chinese counterpart?

[Velayati] In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Mr. Qian Qichen is my old friend and has been the Foreign Minister of China since a long time ago. During last few years he paid one official visit to our country, and this is the second official visit which he has paid to our country on the basis of my invitation; and we are going to talk about the bilateral and also international issues. You know that after the Islamic revolution we have promoted our relations with China in different fields. And also as far as the international affairs are concerned, we have had very close cooperation during the last years, especially in the United Nations and other international organizations.

Recently in Jakarta, China was accepted as an observer in the Nonaligned Movement. So, not only at the United Nations, but also in the Nonaligned Movement we cooperate together. Iran and China as two important Asian countries can play a very important role for peace and tranquillity in this part of the world.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Regional issues, including the Palestinian question, are among the most crucial topics which the two sides said they will take into serious consideration. The Chinese foreign minister stated his country strongly condemns the massacre of Muslim Palestinians by the Zionist soldiers in the town of Hebron in the occupied land.

As for the uproar by the West on human rights in China, Mr. Qian Qichen said: China does not allow any foreign country to interfere in its internal affairs, adding that his country acts on the basis of China's judicial laws and system, not on the basis of the criteria favored by the West.

At the end of the press conference, the two foreign ministers emphasized joint participation in the international meetings and gatherings, and hoped that Iran and China would adopt further common policies towards regional and global affairs.

Iran and China have long enjoyed most friendly mutual relations. Mr. Qian's visit, however, is viewed as an

affair to further activate the two countries' bilateral cooperation concerning regional and international issues.

Visit of PRC Official Previewed

LD0403204994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Chinese Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Qian Qichen arrived in Tehran today on an official visit. China's foreign minister during his two-day visit to Tehran will meet with Iranian officials. The two sides will discuss mutual relations, as well as regional and international issues.

It is well [as heard] to mention that China and Iran have their relations since many years ago and, despite ups and downs in the world policies, Sino-Iranian relations have always enjoyed a positive stability. At this juncture of time, too, leaders of the two countries intend to further strengthen their friendly relations.

Beyond doubt, the expansion of cooperation between Iran and China as two independent countries in the East and West Asia indicate the significance of the relations in various dimensions. Political analysts believe that common cultural and deep-rooted Sino-Iranian civilization in the past as well as strong ties between the two countries have promoted Tehran-Peking relations to a fruitful and strategic level in the region and the world.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and China enjoyed good economic, trade, political, and cultural relations during the years following the culmination of the Islamic revolution in Iran. During the years parallel to the regular formation of economic joint commission, and tasked by the high-ranking officials of the two countries, the volume of trade exchanges between them increased to $710 million dollars in 1993. Presently, Iran and China have extensive cooperation in the field of energy, transportation, telecommunication, mines, industry, agriculture, transfer of technology, and exchange of scientific information.

In view of the independence of Central Asian Republics following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the existence of exceptional potentials in Iran and China, the Central Asia has presently turned into an area of economic and trade activities and has expanded international cooperation among east, west, and central Asia.

In the meantime, the Islamic Republic of Iran and China have identical stands towards international issues, especially the U.S. and West pressures against the Third World countries by playing an active role. Hence, the two countries' cooperation can foil the plots hatched by the enemies. On this basis, reciprocal visits by the officials of the two countries and the exchanges of views and consultations on various affairs can boost the mutual understanding.

The visit to Tehran by China's Qian Qichen would undoubtedly open a new horizon in expanding the relations between the two countries.

Rafsanjani, PRC Minister Meet

LD0503112994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Mr. Qian Qichen, the Chinese deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister.

In the meeting, the president referred to the common cultural and historic bonds between Iran and China and described the further expansion of joint cooperation between the two countries for strengthening peace and stability in the world, particularly in the Asian continent, as important. He said: Playing a more active role on international scenes and confronting foreign powers' interference in Asia requires further planning, cooperation, and exchange of views among regional countries, particularly the two big countries of Iran and China.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the lack of a serious confrontation against the political and economic problems of the world today are caused by the illusive perceptions in power domination and the creation of new power blocs in the world. He said: The threat against the territorial integrity of an independent country such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the heart of Europe, and the continuation of the occupation of the Palestinian territory by the usurper Israel, which each day opens a new page of aggression and massacre of Muslims in its shameful book of history and prevails its anti-peace nature, as well as many problems that exist in the countries of Central Asia and regional countries, mean that Asian countries and the Third World—which have a mighty power in terms of political and economic and manpower resources—must no longer allow the domination seeking powers to interfere under the pretext of mediation to solve regional problems and disputes; they should themselves take the initiative.

The president also stressed the need for further cooperation between Iranian and Chinese experts to explore ways to further deepen the two countries' relations.

China's deputy prime minister and foreign minister conveyed the best greetings of the Chinese Government and people to the Iranian Government and people. He said: Both Iran and China are among the ancient and civilized countries who are connected together by deep historial roots.

He added: After the the Islamic revolution in Iran, the two countries had common political viewpoints on many international issues. As a result, the trend of the expansion of bilateral relations has accelerated in many fields, especially in economic and commercial fields.

Mr. Qian said it is necessary for the developing countries to confront the domineering ambitions of world arrogance. For this reason, he said, China is determined to further expand its cooperation with countries such as Iran.

China's deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed the necessity of strengthening stability and tranquillity in Central Asian countries for the sake of the economic and social reconstruction of those countries. He said: China supports the expansion of the national economies of those countries, and also favors closer cooperation with Iran for solving regional issues, including among the neighboring countries.

Habibi, Velayati, Qian Qichen Meet

LD0503182994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] At a meeting with Mr. Qian Qichen, visiting deputy prime minister and foreign minister of China, First Vice President Hasan Habibi—referring to recent global developments—said: The resulting situation is significant for the major countries of the Asian continent, including China and Iran, to strengthen peace and regional stability. He added: The Middle East is a sensitive region of the world, and maintaining peace and tranquillity in this region can help in achieving global peace and stability.

The first vice president referred to the developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine—which have emotionally harmed the Muslims—as bitter developments. He asked China, as a country enjoying special status on the UN Security Council, to play a more active role in confrontation with hegemonic policies of the major powers.

Habibi described Iran-China ties in all fields of mutual interest as extensive and added: In addition to good socioeconomic relations, ground could be paved for further expansion of mutual ties through cultural cooperation, exchange of professors and students between the two countries, provision of more suitable means for exchanging the experience gained by craftsmen, and the exchange of scientific, technical, and industrial experience between Chinese and Iranian experts.

At the meeting, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of China termed the panorama of future cooperation between Iran and China as promising and added: Mutual understanding based on mutual respect, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and support for global and regional peace and stability, form some of the joint principles of the two countries' foreign policy.

He described the existing possibilities for the expansion of bilateral cooperation as extensive and desirable and said: Apart from the two countries' political, economic, and commercial relations, expansion of international cooperation is also noteworthy.

The latest regional and international developments, as well as the trend of cooperation between Tehran and Beijing were reviewed during a meeting today between Qian Qichen, Chinese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister.

At the meeting, the Chinese deputy prime minister considered the similar and close views of Tehran and Beijing on many international and regional issues to be an effective factor in bringing the two countries closer in their friendly relations. He said: Tehran-Beijing relations are good, positive, and based on mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

The Chinese foreign minister praised Iran's independent policy and Tehran's efforts in establishing peace and stability in the region—especially in Afghanistan.

During the course of the meeting, Mr. Velayati also described Tehran-Beijing relations as deep-rooted and exemplary.

He said: China is capable of playing an important role in the implementation of the underground project in Tehran.

Iran's foreign minister considered human rights to be a weapon that is used by superpowers to interfere in the internal affairs of other states. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran seriously and forthrightly opposes the exertion of any influence that is aimed at dominating other states.

Nateq-Nuri, Qian Qichen View Issues

LD0503192894 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 5 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri in a meeting with the Chinese Deputy Premier Qian Qichen here today said that there had been "no ambiguous juncture" in the long relations between Iran and China. Hoj. Nuri said parliamentary relations between the two countries are helpful for the expansion of mutual ties in other areas.

During the meeting the speaker also warned the U.S. against any moves which tend to breach the international norms. "The U.S. should take lessons from the collapse of the former superpower of the Soviet Union, and should not violate international norms simply because it has no rival anymore."

Referring to the dual attitude of international organizations towards the killings of the innocent people of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the racist Serbs as well as the carnage of the Palestinian Muslim worshipers by the criminal Zionists, the Majlis speaker called on the world countries to take serious action vis-a-vis such crimes.

Stressing Iran's determination to maintain security and stability in the Persian Gulf region, Nuri said that the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf is a threat to the security of the region.

Qian in reply said that Iran served as a bridge between Asia and Europe, and termed Iran's role in the strategic and sensitive region of the Persian Gulf as "positive and constructive". He also said expansion of the mutual parliamentary relations would strengthen the two countries' ties in other areas.

Rowhani, PRC's Qian Criticize UN

LD0603155294 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Majlis Vice-Speaker Hojatoleslam Hassan Rowhani in a meeting with the visiting Chinese deputy premier and foreign minister, Qian Qichen, on Sunday emphasized the important role of Tehran-Beijing cooperation in the region.

He referred to the efforts of the Islamic republic of Iran to help resolve the problems in the region and said Iran has always been after peace and contributed to establishment of lasting peace in the region.

He also said Iran has launched mediation efforts in the fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia and is trying to ease the tense situation in Afghanistan through peaceful means.

Rowhani expressed concern over the presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf and described the movement of large warships in the area and dispatch of military hardware to the region as dangerous to regional peace.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he called the trend of the United Nations activities as worrying and said some UN decisions especially that of the Security Council did not conform to the objectives of the Council.

The very ineffective decisions of the Security Council on Somalia, on horrible crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, on recent massacre of Muslims in Al-Khalil prayers ground in occupied Palestine show that the Security Council is incapable of carrying out its obligations, he said.

Rowhani said China as a giant economic power is expected to assume a significant role in economic development of Iran in light of historical bonds and the friendly relations between the two countries. Qian in response said that relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and China have been based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. He called for promotion of Tehran-Beijing ties.

He confirmed that some committees of the United Nations have become tools in the hands of Western governments. He referred to the activities of the United Nations Human Rights Committee and called it unjust becuase, he said, the committee is scrutinizing the status of human rights in most countries but it does not raise the issue of human rights in the United States.

He referred to close cooperation of Iran and China in the United Nations Human Rights Committee and emphasized that the cooperation should expand in the area.

He said that China was ready to play an active role in Iran's development plans and implement different plans including its nuclear power plant, building wagons for subway trains, cement plants and manufacturing military equipments.

Qian Qichen Comments on Visit, Departs

LD0603192594 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 6 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Chinese visiting Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen left Tehran tonight at the end of his 3-day visit.

Qian who arrived here Friday discussed Tehran-Beijing viewpoints on international and regional issues with high ranking Iranian officials, and called his talks "satisfactory and constructive".

He said that during his stay in Iran, further expansion of ties between the two countries was underlined.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati who saw off Qian at Mehrabad Airport, also described Tehran-Beijing ties as "developing and satisfactory."

Velayati said the two countries' viewpoints on international issues were "identical and an outcome of independent policies." he said Iran and China seek to establish closer ties.

The volume of Iran-China trade exchanges has reached dlrs. 700 million at present, he said, adding that the 8th joint economic commission of the two countries will be held in Tehran shortly.

Khamene'i Sermon Discusses Massacre, Struggle

NC0403141294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1120 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Friday Arabic sermon by Islamic revolution leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 4 March—recorded]

[Text] Believers everywhere: May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be with you. The advent of the blessed night of the Koran's revelation, a night better than a thousand months, represents an opportunity for the Muslim to purify his soul and educate his spirit, lifting it, via his supplications and prayers to God, from the swamp of materialism to the realm of light and meaning. It is a success that I wish you will all have, brothers and sisters.

All vicious hands are seeking to drag humanity toward corruption and materialism. The Muslims must guard

themselves against being dragged into this overwhelming flood through piety and seeking God's protection. They must erect the Islamic nation's structure on a solid foundation of souls strengthened by the repetition of God's name and a will reassured of the fulfillment of the divine promise, especially as we mark the martyrdom anniversary of the lord of the pious and prince of the faithful 'Ali Bin-Abu-Talib, may God's peace be with him. Let us therefore turn this great man's saga into a beacon lighting our way.

The basic issue in our Islamic world today is the painful, bloody incident at the venerated Ibrahimi Mosque where fasting worshippers were massacred en masse by the hand of international Zionism. The massacre cloaked this month of fasting with the garb of sorrow and overwhelmed Muslim hearts with anguish and distress. The media of global arrogance and their stooges are strenuously and cunningly seeking to impose a blackout on this news and downplay its heinous character. But its grave implications are clear to everyone who has an enlightened heart.

I find it necessary to present the following points to our brothers and sisters:

First, those who perpetrated this incident are not a small group. No, everything indicates that the incident occurred after careful planning, preparation, and support from those who usurped Palestine. The Israeli Government is the criminal and its accomplices are those who have been giving it backing, thus encouraging it to dare to carry out this act. The unconditional U.S. backing for Israel, particularly at the recent humiliating negotiations, provided a safe climate for the Israeli Government to perpetrate this crime. The other accomplices are all those writers, politicians, and media personnel who beat the drums and did their utmost to undermine the Islamic ranks who are struggling against usurper Zionism and to transform the conflict into a conflict between two wings of our nation. They did this in line with U.S.-Israeli wishes.

Second, this incident marks the beginning of a new stage in the progress of Zionist policy. It will not be the last incident; the Zionists are still pursuing the policy they adopted soon after the occupation, which aims to produce stifling and insecure conditions for the Muslims. On the threshold of this unjust solution to the cause, they seek to prevent something called the Palestinian people from continuing to exist in the usurped territories. They have succeeded in turning the Palestinian people into a minority on their land. They are seeking to weaken them more and terrify their ranks so that the Palestinian cause can be handed over to oblivion and loss. It is the usurpers' beautiful dream and naive imagination. This incident is proof of their self-deceiving imagination.

Third, this incident teaches all the Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims the lesson that the usurpers of Palestine are continuing their policy of assassination, terror, and deception. Polite talk with them, compromise, and so-called peaceful solutions will be to no avail. Had this incident occurred during the armed fedayeen struggle carried out by Palestinian groups, it could have been described as a retaliation. But its occurrence, after those individuals who profess to be Palestinians signed, with dirty and trembling hand, a document selling off Palestine, demonstrates the inveterately hostile, uncompromising, and usurping nature of Zionism.

Fourth, the zealous and heroic Palestinian people must, as a consequence, decide their own future and not leave it for the enemy to decide. The United States, Israel, and the corrupt regimes who are U.S. puppets will not adopt a humanitarian decision that honors the Palestinians. Those who opted for negotiations think only of keeping their seats of power for a few more days. They are heedless of the people who are wronged and oppressed in their own country. Their youths are killed, their women dishonored, their homes turned into graves, and their mosques, worship, and prayers are transformed into massacres. The Palestinians are Muslims and must therefore draw inspiration from their great Koran, which says: "And why should ye not fight in the cause of God and the cause of those who, being weak, are ill-treated and oppressed, men, women and children." [Koranic verse]

The Koran also describes the enemies of God: "In a believer they respect not the ties of kinship or of covenant. It is they who have transgressed all bounds." [Koranic verse]

Jihad is a difficult endeavor that needs endurance but it pleases God almighty, shatters the chains of bondage and humiliation, and guarantees an ideal future. Palestine has no security even in its own territory. Its life without struggle is not easier than a life of struggle.

No right is greater than God's words: "And if any strive, they do so for their own souls, for God is free of all needs from all creation." [Koranic verse]

I ask the exalted to bestow enlightenment and vigilance on the Islamic nations so that they can fulfill their duty to the Palestinian cause, especially as this issue has become more bitter and more afflicted.

International Jerusalem Day next week is drawing near. It is the arena in which the will of the Muslim masses becomes evident and is an opportunity that expresses Islamic maturity. Let us all appreciate this opportunity and raise our voices on that day in the face of the usurpers of Palestine and all those who back them.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

"When comes the help of God, and victory, and thou dost see the people enter God's religion in crowds, celebrate the praises of thy Lord and pray for his forgiveness, for he is oft-returning in grace and mercy." [Koranic verse]

Zionist Role Exmained

LD0403150194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1225 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in Tehran on 4 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [passage omitted]

The issue of the Zionist enemy's aggression against the immaculate shrine of Abraham is such a great atrocity and it is such a painful incident that saying a few words does not do it justice. We believe that the usurper government of Israel is directly responsible for the Hebron massacre. The supporters of the usurper government, headed by America, are also responsible for this incident, because they always defended the Zionists during all those years. Whenever there was a problem for the Zionists, immediately America rushed to their defense. Those American Jews, those big capitalists, did whatever they wanted using American power and money and used America's political influence all over the world to support that cancerous cell which has been created in the heart of the Islamic nations.

Very well, are they not guilty in this case? Are they not responsible? No doubt they are. Also responsible in this incident are other allies and supporters of Israel. The world public media that have not justly explained that incident are also responsible. Human rights organizations, UN Human Rights Committee and other small and large organizations—which operate all over the world under different titles—are lying in ambush, waiting for small incidents to happen for any government in any corner of the globe that has no friendly ties with America, so that they could scream about violations of human rights. Now look at this case, the usurper, malicious and tyrannical government of the Zionists, who are the enemies of humanity, shed the blood of hundreds of Palestinians when they are fasting and prostrate in prayers. They kill tens of persons, injure hundreds, and later, when people who are naturally angry, bereaved, and sympathetic come to streets with their fists clenched, then Israeli soldiers target them one by one, hunting them and killing them. Here those organizations proclaiming to be defenders of human rights are keeping their mouths shut and say nothing.

At best, such and such international organization set out to condemn it. What good is a word of condemnation to Palestinians anyway? If organizations which claim to be championing human rights were genuine, then they should have all stood up, raised a cry, and imposed a blockage on the Israeli Government. They should have issued an ultimatum to Israel's backers and warned them that they had no right to help a corrupt, bloodthirsty, and criminal regime. However, none of this was done.

The Arab governments too were unfortunately complacent. They neither declared mourning nor set out to grieve and cover everywhere in black cloth [sentence as heard]. Moreover, they made no efforts to put a complete stop to the ongoing negotiations. They were at fault for their complacency. Of course, the conscience of the Islamic ummah became aroused and turbulent.

The Western press, however, were more at fault than any one else. As far as the Israeli press and media were concerned, they said what was exactly expected of them. They were murderers themselves, so how could one expect a murderer to condemn himself? However, why did the press in the so-called free world indulge in overlooking the truth to such a degree and remain silent or at best portray the whole thing as an insignificant incident? However, when an Arab took up arms and attacked a few people—an attack which as far as I know did not lead to a great deal of damage—the American press created such a hue and cry during the recent days. As far as I was informed, the whole of the press reports were saturated with the news of that incident. Nonetheless, they chose to be silent toward the Hebron incident, or at best decided to belittle the whole issue. The Western press, alternatively, set out to portray the incident as a provoked act committed by a single individual. These all constitute a great injustice. How fanatic, ruthless, and devoid of a free spirit—to which they lay claim—the employees of the Western press must be to react to the incident in such an unacceptable manner?

Our dear nation has of course always declared its stances. Let us not say—and I ask the others not to say—what is the use of this anyway? The heaviest burden on the shoulder of the usurpers is the uprising of nations in any part of the globe. If nations rise, stage demonstrations in their respective countries, and display their clenched fists, then the criminals will feel trapped. This applies to all issues and processes, such as anti-Americanism or protest against the bloodthirsty elements in former Yugoslavia.

The peoples of the world must announce their presence on the political scene. That is very effective in the international climate of world politics. Let them not overlook this. Therefore, when Jerusalem Day [11 March] comes, if the world of Islam, God willing, honors that day with its true meaning, if it honors next Friday to shout at the usurper Zionists, the enemy will be defeated and forced to retreat. And you the people of Iran will, God willing, demonstrate the meaning of using Jerusalem Day as an opportunity to declare your stand on the issue of Palestine.

Next Friday is Jerusalem Day. Thank God, the Iranian nation has behaved well in that respect, and so have the government and the foreign ministry. They did not waste any time; they said what needed to be said. The oppressed Palestinians realized that there are people around the world who are concerned about their issue.

That concern must be proved. Pressure on Israel should be increased. The Palestinians, themselves, should take on the responsibility of reviving the issue of Palestine and fight. Struggle is hard, but a life like that is harder than the struggle. The difference is that if they fight the future would be good for them, but living like that would bring more hardship for them every day.

Of course, the people in occupied Palestine are awake today. But the struggle inside Palestine should be general and all-embracing and continual and connected to the outside world and connected to the heart of the Muslim ummah. And Muslim nations should help them.

About this issue I would like to talk to our Muslim brothers overseas, so I will say a few words. [passage omitted]

Paper Urges Muslims To Avenge Hebron Incident

NC0603201094 Tehran KAYHAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 27 Feb p 2

[Unattributed article: "Revenge Is the Only Option"]

[Text] As usual with every crime that the Zionists perpetrate against Muslims inside and outside the occupied territories, official statements have been issued full of the usual rhetoric and the media has overflowed with denunciations and condemnations. Official authorities hastened to contain the popular reaction and called for self-restraint and responsible behavior. Popular reaction was far ahead of the authorities. The masses have maintained sincere feelings and a sound awareness for 42 years. Whenever the Jews have dealt their barbaric blows to Muslims, the main preoccupation of the governments has not been to react to these attacks but to contain the mass anger and control public unrest.

This continued until the regimes' policies overcame the reaction of the man in the street. The majority of the people thus began to pay scant attention to the violation of the nation's dignity and the desecration of its sacred places. Many of the older generation who are suffering from repression and pain yearn for the 1950's, when popular awareness was boiling from the Gulf to the ocean and the streets were erupting with demonstrations. These were the people's recourse for their political impotence and a necessary venting of their emotions over the wounds to their dignity and their defeat.

But regrettably, yesterday's vigor no longer exists. Many of the patriotic and national forces have retreated and lost their zeal. Only the Islamic forces have remained in the arena, and they are being pursued and attacked by the authorities and cursed by the international forces, which accuse them of terrorism and of being opposed to peace.

The extent of the anger that cannot be kept pent up is evinced by the extent of the official organs' efforts to consolidate the defeat and present a fait accompli. This was clearly shown in everyone's desire to continue the peace process and their calls to protect it from collapse.

The al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre is the bloody fruit of a peace resulting from a defeatist and capitulationist mentality. What peace is this they are talking about and what is its philosophy if its price is more killings, destruction, massacres, and violations of Palestinian human rights?

How can there be coexistence when the Jews are acting according to the Talmud, which advocates the annihilation of the Muslims and legitimizes the shedding of their blood?

The Zionist concept of peace is the peace of the Jews and their security, not peace for the Palestinians and their recovery of their lands. What the international and regional capitals are saying about peace is only a trick to defuse popular anger and to calm the hearts that have been shaken by this barbaric crime.

The hurried U.S. call for the resumption of the peace talks in Washington and everyone's eagerness to blame the incident on sick madmen suffering from psychological complexes are only designed to justify the logic of the false peace, while asserting that this peace will solve our problems, make everyone happy, and restore normality.

But this crime indicates something completely different. Its planners chose to carry it out in a sacred place and at a holy time in a clear indication of the essence and core of the conflict. It is a conflict between two systems and civilizations, one divine and the other earthly, one that embodies harmony with what God wants and the other hostile to God and propagating discrimination and the inequality of peoples.

The Zionist Jews' concept of security demands nothing less than the exclusion and annihilation of the Muslim Palestinians and depriving them of the right to life and to their land. Hence, the logic of confrontation must take account of the real Zionist objectives. No understanding can be reached with a criminal enemy through the logic of the defeated peace. Real, practical action that deprives the Zionists of their security and safety is the only possible reply that can restore a balance to the conflict formula.

Indifference, laxity, and dependence on negotiations will not restore wasted dignity or lost rights. The blood of innocent Palestinians shed in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque is merely the price for the ostrich policy that is pursued in the region in regard to the criminal enemy. If Muslims were in the habit of returning blow for blow, the Zionists would not have been so confident that they could commit their crimes so easily. There is only one logic that the nation should follow undeviatingly in its struggle with the enemies: namely, the logic of steadfastness, resistance, and escalation of the confrontation, not withdrawal and retreat. Retreat has always paved the way for the enemies to commit more crimes. The Muslims have

had enough retreats and humiliation and everyone should now shout for revenge. Let the secularists and pragmatists stop offering their advice and logic, which have only compounded the nation's humiliation and degradation.

Column Condemns 'Arafat's Response to Hebron Events

NC0603204094 Tehran KAYHAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 27 Feb p 4

["Today's Halt" column by Walid Ibrahim]

[Text] The senseless atrocity committed by the Zionists in the Ibrahimi mosque generates a mixed sentiment of terror and bewilderment. What can one say? Yesterday afternoon, when I came to the office to discuss a topic for "Today's Halt" column, the editor suggested I should write about the carnage, but I was not yet over the shock. I said no and left. What kept preying on my mind was that the crime will be folded, rolled up like a carpet and consigned to a dusty corner.

It is expected the peace process will resume after a short pause. Yasir 'Arafat will return to work on the "only alternative" and try to fully utilize the "historic opportunity" furnished by the shameless Gaza-Jericho agreement. Yes, this is the greatest grief and ultimate humiliation.

'Arafat said that the crime was one that should not be forgotten. But it will be. They will say that the culprits are not connected with the Israeli Army and probably describe them as hysterical and mentally deranged.

'Arafat was publicly wondering about the position of the United States, as a cosponsor of the peace process. It was President Clinton who orchestrated the signing of the Declaration of Principles. 'Arafat also wants to know the reaction of European and nonaligned countries.

What if you get an answer to that, 'Arafat? What will change? Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the defunct Arab League, said that the massacre will endanger the peace process. The French Foreign Ministry voiced outrage. The White House also expressed mild indignation. The UK Government did not denounce the massacre but criticized the events that followed and expressed—is not this great, 'Arafat?—its hope that the massacre will not impede negotiations between the Arabs and Israel. The Spanish Foreign Ministry expressed its "profound dismay" and called on—this is a good one too—the concerned parties to continue peace efforts. The German Foreign Ministry described the incident as a "bloodbath" and called on—what else can you ask for, 'Arafat?—the various sides not to allow the peace process to be derailed. The International Committee of the Red Cross merely expressed alarm and called for "respect for the rights of civilians"

So, everyone and his cousin have denounced the massacre in strong or not-so-strong terms. They also called for talks and the continuation of peace efforts.

Is this what you wanted, 'Arafat? Were you worried that, in the absence of condemnation, the sacred blood of the Palestinians would fail to change into negotiable water and dust?

What is degrading is that Western foreign ministries despise you, 'Arafat, as much as they despise Palestinians, dead or alive. The massacre that you yourself described as "a crime that should not be forgotten" will, after all, be forgotten. After all expressions of outrage have receded, after the call to get on with our lives—read: let the massacre go unpunished—is heeded, the process of forgetting will set in.

For more than 40 years, we and the rest of world have been denouncing and condemning the "Zionist entity," but the Palestinians continued getting killed and liquidated; the chorus of condemnation may as well have been the drone of a fly.

How can you confront your people with a straight face while Palestinian bloodshed in the Ibrahimi mosque covers you from head to toe? And, what about earlier Palestinian blood? Have you consigned that to your archives as well?

You, 'Arafat, more than anyone else, should see to it that the crime is not forgotten. The least you could do is listen to the advice of Fatah dissident, Munir Maqdah, who said: "In the past, we called on 'Arafat to step down. But now, stepping down is not good enough. The best thing 'Arafat can do is to commit suicide."